

FILOZOFSKA FAKULTETA

# Angleški glagol 1

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Oddelek za anglistiko

2009/2010

# The VERB

⇒ Typically refers to actions, to processes (events that have a span of time between the initial and final state), states.

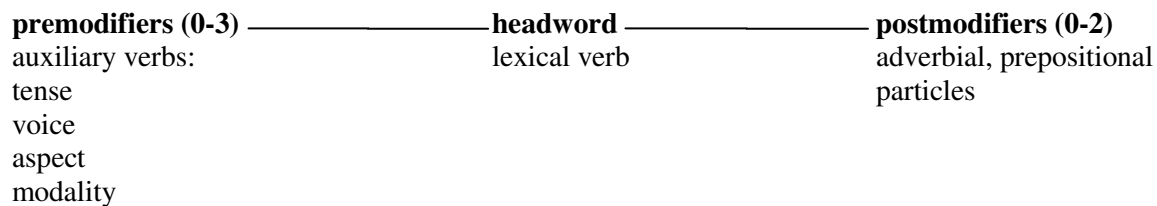
Morphological characteristics of verbs:

- ▶ **LEXICAL/ROOT MORPHEME** – carries the lexical meaning of the verb  
*walk,..*
- ▶ **DERIVATIONAL MORPHEME** – used to derive words from other parts of speech  
*-fy, -en, -ise/-ize, ..*
- ▶ **INFLECTIONAL MORPHEME** – carries the grammatical meaning  
*-ed, -ing, -s,..*

## VERBAL PHRASE

Words are joined into phrases.

Structure of a phrase is always the same:



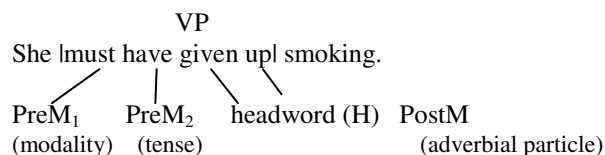
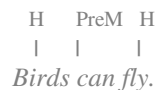
The verbal phrase (VP) normally follows the nominal phrase functioning as subject in a sentence.

There are two kinds of verbal phrases:

- ▶ **SIMPLE VERBAL PHRASE** consists only of one verb, which is the headword.



- ▶ **COMPLEX VERBAL PHRASE** consists of a lexical verb as headword which is preceded by a modal auxiliary and/or by one or more primary auxiliaries as premodifiers (PreM) and/or followed by one or more postmodifiers (PostM)



## IRREGULAR VERBS

⇒ Use an irregular form in the function of the past tense and/or past participle.

**go** + [+past] = **went**

### SUPPLETION:

- ▶ **PARTIAL** Resemblance between the original and the new form
- ▶ **COMPLETE** No resemblance between the original and the new form

*build – built*  
*be – was*

## SPELLING CHANGES

Basic form + morphemes -s/-ed/-ing    spelling change

### 1.

#### 1.1 Morpheme [-s]

The base form remains the same (unchanged)

*sing*    *sings*

#### 1.2. Final consonant + y

*try*    *tries*    (y → ie [+s])

#### 1.3. Final -sh, -ch, -ss, -o, -x, -z, -es

*finish*    *finishes*

*miss*    *misses*

*fix*    *fixes*

*buzz*    *buzzes*

*go*    *goes*

#### 1.4. Monosyllabic verbs with final single ‘s’

*bus*    *busses*

*gas*    *gasses*

\*with disyllabic verbs, doubling is optional

## 2. The present participle and gerund morphemes -ing

### 2.1. Without changes

*play*    *playing*

### 2.2. Verbs with the final ‘e’ / ‘mute e’

*smile*    *smiling*

*tremble*    *trembling*

\*the final ‘e’ tells us the preceding vowel is long (*rob/robe, scar/scare*)

#### 2.2.2. No mute ‘e’

*agree*    *agreeing*

*knee*    *kneeing*

*tiptoe tiptoeing*  
*age ageing (!)*  
*singe singeing (!)*

### **2.3. Final ‘ie’**

*tie tying*  
*die dying*

### **2.4. Final ‘c’**

*panic panicking*  
*mimic mimicking*

## **3. The past tense and the past participle morphemes -ed**

### **3.1. Without changes**

*follow followed*  
*walk walked*  
*play played*

### **3.2. Mute ‘e’ rule**

*smile smiled*  
*tiptoe tiptoed*  
*agree agreed*  
*singe singed*  
*dye dyed*  
*age aged*

### **3.3. Final consonant + ‘y’**

*try tried*  
*cry cried*

### **3.4. Final ‘c’**

*panic panicked*  
*mimic mimicked*

## **4. The doubling of the final consonant**

### **4.1. Monosyllabic words that end in a single vowel letter (short vowel phoneme) followed by a consonant**

*bar barred/barring*  
*clap clapped / clapping*  
*shim shimmed / shimming*

**BUT this does not apply to verbs ending in -x, -y, -w**

*row rowed / rowing*  
*box boxed / boxing*  
*play played / playing*

#### 4.2. Disyllabic words with stress on the second syllable, ending in a single vowel letter, followed by a consonant

*commit*    *committed / committing*  
*occur*    *occurred / occurring*  
*submit*    *submitted / submitting*

#### 4.3. Disyllabic words ending in ‘l’ (in British English only)

*travel*    *travelled / travelling*  
*dial*    *dialled / dialling*

##### 4.3.1.

*program*    *programmed / programming*  
*worship*    *worshipped / worshipping*  
*kidnap*    *kidnapped / kidnapping*  
*hiccup*    *hiccupped / hiccupping*

#### BUT:

*gossip*    *gossiped*  
*develop*    *developed*

**SEMANTICS** ⇒ A theory that deals with the meaning of words

#### SEMANTIC ROLES:

- ▶ **AGENT/ACTOR**    the participant that intentionally initiates the action/event expressed by the verb

*George kissed Mary*  
AGENT

- ▶ **PATIENT**    the participant that undergoes the action expressed by the verb and is also changed/affected by the action

*George kissed Mary*  
PATIENT

- ▶ **BENEFICIARY**    the participant that benefits from the action expressed by the verb

*George made Mary a sandwich*  
BENEFICIARY

- ▶ **THEME**    the participant that undergoes the action expressed by the verb but is not affected by it

*George saw Mary*  
THEME

- ▶ **EXPERIENCER**    the participant that experiences some psychological state expressed by the verb, is aware of the state but cannot control it

*George saw Mary*  
EXPERIENCER

- ▶ **LOCATION**    the place where the action expressed by the verb takes place

*Mary drove to the party.*  
LOCATION

- **INSTRUMENT** the means by which an action expressed by the verb is performed

*George saw Mary with binoculars*  
INSTRUMENT

**Matching between the syntactic and semantic function:**

Agent and experience are usually in the SUBJECT position.  
Patient and theme are usually in the DIRECT OBJECT position.  
Beneficiary is usually in the INDIRECT OBJECT position (or ADJUNCT).  
Location and instrument are usually in the ADJUNCT position.

**CLASSIFICATION OF VERBS ACCORDING TO THEIR FUNCTION IN THE VERBAL PHRASE**

**AUXILIARY VERBS**

⇒ “helping verbs” - premodifiers in a (complex) verbal phrase  
When two or more lexical verbs in the same analytical form are connected with *and* or *or*, the auxiliary verb is used only with the first verb:

*She is sitting in the living room and reading the newspaper.*

**PRIMARY AUXILIARY VERBS:**

- ▷ **DO** - used to form negations and questions in all present and past indefinite tenses, and for the purpose of emphasis
- ▷ **BE** - used to form progressive tenses and passive voice
- ▷ **HAVE** - used to form perfect tenses

**MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS:**

Contribute to the meaning of the verbal phrase (probability, possibility, obligation,..)

- ▷ **CAN/COULD**
- ▷ **MAY / MIGHT**
- ▷ **SHALL / SHOULD**
- ▷ **WILL / WOULD**
- ▷ **MUST**
- ▷ **OUGHT TO**
- ▷ **NEED**
- ▷ **DARE**
- ▷ **USED TO**

The modal auxiliaries give the lexical verb they are used with special shades of meaning such as futurity, volition, possibility, permission, obligation, etc. They can only occur as the first (finite) element of the finite verbal phrase.

Auxiliaries have different functions in the verbal phrase, but they all functions as **operators**.

*She might have been eavesdropping.*  
*She has been eavesdropping.*  
*She is eavesdropping.* } operators



## STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION OF LEXICAL VERBS

⇒ Lexical verbs can be classified into different categories according to the type of structure in which they occur:

### LINKING VERBS / COPULAS

Typically occur in sentences with a subject complement.

- ▶ LINKING VERB OF STATE (refer to a state): **be, smell, sound, remain**
- ▶ LINKING VERB OF TRANSITION (refer to a transition): **turn, grow, get go**

*I am tired.*

*Those roses smell nice.*

*This sounds strange*

*The governess grew impatient.*

*He turned nice.*

*George got tired of her.*

### TRANSITIVITY

verbal complementation

### INTRANSITIVE VERBS

⇒ Do not need complementation; cannot take a direct object (the action expressed by an intransitive verb does not affect any person or thing other than the subject)

*Peter sleeps everyday for eight hours.*

### TRANSITIVE VERBS

⇒ Transitive verbs can take a direct object.

*She made a cake.*  
P DO

*A cake was made.*  
S P

Whenever you have a passive voice structure, the verb is transitive.

- ▶ **MONOTRANSITIVE VERBS** Verbs that may be used with a **DO** (usually a nominal phrase with a noun or a pronoun as headword)

*George kissed Mary.*  
DO

- ▶ **DITRANSITIVE VERBS** Verbs, that require double complementation, **DO + IO** ( both objects are represented by nominal phrases)

*George gave Mary a bouquet of flowers.*  
IO DO

- ▶ **COMPLEX TRANSITIVE VERBS** Verbs that may be followed by a **DO + OC**

*Mary considers George ugly.*  
DO OC



## REFLEXIVE VERBS

⇒ Verbs that are followed by a reflexive pronoun (as a DO).

- **PROPER REFLEXIVE VERB** Use of a reflexive pronoun is obligatory

*pride oneself, absent oneself from, demean oneself, perjure oneself, avail oneself, ingratiate oneself, to make oneself at home, betake oneself*

- **SEMI-REFLEXIVE VERBS** The reflexive pronoun can be omitted, with little or no change in meaning.

*behave (oneself), hide (oneself), wash (oneself), shave (oneself), dress (oneself)*

### NB:

*George blames himself for the accident.* not reflexive  
*George blames Mary for the accident.*

Reflexive pronouns are not used in English when the subject is inanimate.

## CATENATIVE VERBS

⇒ Transitive (mostly monotransitive) verbs whose object is realized by a nonfinite clause.

The catenative verb selects the form of the following verb. Thus, catenatives may be followed by:

- ▷ a bare infinitive
- ▷ a to-infinitive
- ▷ a gerund
- ▷ a present participle
- ▷ a past participle

A non-finite form or a non-finite clause, however, is not always obligatory; after some catenatives a dependant *that*-clause can be used instead: *She pretended that she had forgotten his name.*

*I want to go.*

*George tried to sleep.*

*She hopes to marry George soon.*

*I saw Peter cheating at cards.*

*Mary heard her name called twice.*

Catenative verbs are sometimes followed not only by a verb but by a nominal phrase + verb.

*Mary likes swimming.*

*George hates drinking cold milk.*

### NB:

*She went to the shop to buy some bread.*

*She came not knowing what to expect.*

} intransitive

## ERGATIVE VERBS

⇒ A verb which can take either the agent or the patient as the grammatical subject of the sentence and in both cases there is no change in voice.

*An explosion shook the room. The room shook.*

*Mary is roasting a turkey. A turkey is roasting.*

} active voice

### NB:

*Mary kicked George. George was kicked.*

- the voice is changed

## MULTI-WORD VERBS

⇒ lexical verbs followed by one or two particles

### ► PHRASAL VERBS VERB + ADVERBIAL PARTICLE

position of the object: with most transitive phrasal verbs, the particle may either precede or follow a short noun object

*Mary looked up the words = Mary looked the words up*

Phrasal verbs can be either transitive or intransitive; *Did the bomb blow up? / The enemy has given in. / Please, don't hang up, listen to me.*

position of adjunct: must be placed either before or after the phrasal verb

*Mary picked up her handbag quickly.*

*Mary quickly picked up her handbag.*

*Mary picked her handbag up quickly.*

*Mary quickly picked her handbag up.*

#### IDIOMATIC vs. NON-IDIOMATIC STATUS:

1. one word equivalent  
*back up - support*  
*come in - enter*
2. no equivalent  
*go off (the bread went off)*
3. free combination  
*go across - cross*

#### Broad and narrow definition of PHRASAL VERBS:

##### a) NARROW DEFINITION (SEMANTICS):

- A phrasal verb has to form a new semantic unit, must have a new meaning.

- *He turned up in the middle of nowhere. (+)* - *He called back from his office. (-)*

##### b) BROAD DEFINITION (SYNTAX):

- The verb and the adverb must form the same syntactic unit (predicator).

- *He turned off the lights. (+)* phrasal verb in a narrow sense

- *He turned off the road. (-)*

#### Characteristics of PHRASAL VERBS

Usually used in everyday (informal, colloquial) language

- *come in = enter*

Most of them have a single verb equivalent (usually foreign origin)

- *put out = extinguish* - *go out = date, court, woo*

Many are synonymous with other phrasal verbs

- *hold on = hang on*

They can have different adverbial particles for the same meanings

- *fill in, out, up (the form)* - *drop by, in, round*

Some tend to be used more formal

- *break down (formal meaning) = conk out (informal meaning, substandard)*

They can be found in idiomatic expressions

- *make up your mind = decide*

In some cases the particle can have two forms

- *insist on (more informal) = insist upon (posh, formal)*

### ► PREPOSITIONAL VERBS VERB + PREPOSITION

⇒ prepositional verbs are always transitive

position of the object: prepositional verbs are inseparable; the object always follows the preposition

*Mr. Johnson has gone into the tourism business.*

position of adjunct: the prepositional component may be separated from the verb by an adjunct

*Tom laughed heartily at the joke.*

### ► PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL VERBS VERB + ADVERB + PREPOSITION

⇒ Operate in most cases like prepositional verbs.

position of the object: the position of the object is always after the prepositional component; a phrasal-prepositional verb can be analysed as a transitive verb with the following nominal phrase as direct object

*I am looking forward to the party.*

*Look out for the car!*

Position of adjunct: we cannot insert an adjunct immediately before a short direct object nor in front of the first particle, though it is possible to do so between particles

*The policeman caught up quickly with the criminals.*

*The policeman quickly caught up with the criminals.*

*\*The policeman caught up with quickly the criminals.*

## SYNTACTIC CRITERIA

### PREPOSITIONAL VERBS

*Into what did she go?*

- *Into details about..*

### FREE COMBINATION

*In what did she go?*

- *The room.*

*Where did she go?*

- *Into the room.*

⇒ verb of movement followed by location is analyzed as a free combination

## PROBLEMS

*She suffered from cancer.* prep. verb

↳ \**Cancer was suffered from.*

*Primitive once live in these caves.* free combinations

↳ *These caves were lived in by primitive men.*

## Degrees of semantic unity - transparency

▷ NON-TRANSPARENT (The meaning of the whole cannot be deduced from its parts. With adverbial particles)

*She takes good care to **get in with** the people who matter.*

▷ TRANSPARENT (The meaning of the whole is easily deducible from its parts)

*The attackers fled when the two men **fought back**.*

▷ GRAMMATICAL COLLOCATIONS (a verb is always used with a particular preposition/adverb. Only prepositional verbs)

*He **depended on** his writing for his income.*

▷ ASPECTUAL VALUE (verb + aspectual particles, denoting an action was performed thoroughly, continuously, completely)

*He **ate up** his lunch.*

## VERBAL GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES

- ▷ FINITENESS - finite, non-finite
- ▷ NUMBER - singular, plural
- ▷ PERSON - the speaker, the addressee, the absent ones
- ▷ ASPECT - completed, incompleting action
- ▷ MOOD - indicative, imperative, subjunctive
- ▷ VOICE - active, passive
- ▷ TENSE - present, past, future

## FINITE AND NON-FINITE FORMS OF THE VERB

### Finite Verbal Forms

A finite form of the verb is one which is limited by or bound to some subject with which it agrees in number and person.

*I **play** the violin.*

*He **plays** the violin.*

*They **play** the violin.*

A finite verbal form can occur as the only verb form in the predicator of main or subordinate clause.

Besides number and person the finite verb forms can indicate the following grammatical categories:

- ↳ Aspect
- ↳ Mood
- ↳ Tense
- ↳ Voice

The only function of a finite verbal form is to realize finite verbal phrases which always constitute the predicator in a sentence.

*She **will be** twenty next year. / John **has** always **been** kind to me. / He **writes** poems.*

### Non-finite Verbal Forms

The non-finite verbal forms are:

- **The infinitive**
- **The gerund**
- **The participles** (the *-ing* participle and the past participle)

These three classes of non-finite forms serve to distinguish three classes of non-finite verbal phrases: infinitival, gerundial, and participial.

The non-finite forms do not express the grammatical categories of person, number and mood, hence there is no person or number agreement between the subject and the non-finite predicator.

The non-finite verbal forms may, however, indicate the grammatical categories of:

- ↳ Aspect
- ↳ Tense
- ↳ Voice

The non-finite verbal forms can have several functions:

- ▶ They are used in the formation of finite and non-finite verbal phrases.
    - ◆ In a finite verbal phrase the only or the first element is always finite, the following element(s) being non-finite.
    - ◆ In a non-finite verbal phrase the only element or all the elements are non-finite:
  - ↳ To-infinitive or bare infinitive: (to) ask, (to) be asked, (to) have asked, (to) have been asked, (to) be asking, (to) have been asking,
  - ↳ Gerund or participle: asking, being asked, having asked, having been asked
  - ↳ Past participle: asked
- 
- ◆ In main clauses non-finite forms normally occur only as parts of a complex finite verbal phrase which functions as a predicator.
    - ⇒ *He was watching TV.*  
          f      n-f
  - ↳ Main clauses with a non-finite verbal phrase as predicator are very rare. However, a non-finite verbal phrase can occur in other elements of main clauses, such as subject, object, or object complement.
    - ⇒ *Skiing is difficult. / He resented being laughed at. / She looked worried.*
  - ◆ However, a non-finite verbal phrase occurs as the only predicator in non-finite clauses.
    - ⇒ *The best thing would be to call the doctor.*

S                  P                  SC                  O

As a sentence element **to call the doctor** is subject complement; it is a non-finite clause with **to call** as the predicator and **the doctor** as object.

## NUMBER AND PERSON

There are two numbers in the English verb: the singular and the plural

The verb has three persons:

- ▷ The person who speaks - the first person
- ▷ The person spoken to - the second person
- ▷ The person or thing talked about - third person

## ASPECT

⇒ A grammatical category of the verb which expresses the manner in which an action or state is presented by the speaker; the action may be presented as **completed** or **uncompleted**.

In English the category of aspect is mainly expressed by the opposition of the non-progressive (indefinite) tense forms and the progressive tense forms.

*he wrote - he was writing*

The aspectual character of an action may be expressed by the lexical verb itself. According to their inherent semantic meaning lexical verbs can be divided into **durative** and **terminative** verbs. Within the former groups there is a subclass of stative verbs, and within the latter there are punctual verbs:

### DURATIVE VERBS

⇒ Denote an action with no limit, no final state.

- ▷ **Stative** durative verbs (denote a state)

*Ann has red hair. / The amendment remains in force.*

- ▷ **Non-stative** durative verbs (denote an action)

*Georgina stared at him. / John has worked as a government official.*

When deciding on the aspectual character of an action, these criteria might help:

verb	dynamism	duration	telicity	aspectual character
<i>received</i>	+	+	+	terminative, non-punctual
<i>dropped</i>	+	-	+	terminative, punctual
<i>stared</i>	+	+	-	durative, non-stative
<i>has</i>	-	+	-	durative, stative

### TERMINATIVE VERBS

⇒ Denote an action with a final aim or certain limit.

- ▷ **Punctual** terminative verbs (denote an action which lasts a short period of time)

*I dropped my glasses and broke them. / He tapped the table to still the shouts of protest.*

- ▷ **Non-punctual** terminative verbs (denote an action)

*They will receive their awards at a ceremony in Madrid. / The ice melted.*

Sometimes the aspectual character can be expressed by the use of special verbs or verbal phrases:

- ▷ **Inchoative meaning** denotes a change of state / transition  
↳ become, come, fall, get, grow, go, take, run + gerund, adjective, infinitive

*He is nice.    He became nice.  
She is mad.    She has gone mad.*

- ▷ **Durative meaning** implies one action for a long period of time  
↳ continue, go on, keep (on), stay, go on + -ing form

*She nagged.    She kept on nagging.  
Mary pinched George.    Mary continued pinching George.*

- ▷ **Frequentative meaning** implies repetition in a period of time  
↳ will/would + infinitive; used + to-infinitive

*She complains.    She will complain.  
She helped me a lot.    She used to help me a lot.  
She read crime stories.    She would read crime stories.*

**Aspectual particles** are adverbial particles added to the verb to change or stress the aspectual character of the verb:

*Sometimes they keep you **on** a bit longer, if they can't find anyone else to take your place.* (continuousness)

*He used **up** all the coins he had.* (completion)

*Everyone is chattering **away** in different languages.* (persistence)

*How long will our coal reserves last **out**?* (endurance)

*You'd better not fool **around** with your friend's wives.* (aimless behaviour)

When the speaker expresses the aspectual character of an event, or a situation, through grammatical means we talk about grammatical aspect. English distinguishes three types of grammatical aspects:

- ▷ The indefinite
- ▷ The progressive
- ▷ The perfect form

#### THE INDEFINITE VS. THE PROGRESSIVE:

The difference between the indefinite and the progressive concerns:

◆ The durational character of the action

The indefinite merely reports an action without indicating its duration and accomplishment.  
(=indefinite/common aspect)

*Mary will write a long letter. (= Mary bo napisala dolgo pismo ali Mary bo pisala dolgo pismo)*

The progressive form indicates an action continuing through a period of time within certain time limits; it represent a concrete action in its development at a given moment, present, past, or future (=progressive aspect)

*Mary will be writing a letter. (=Mary bo pisala pismo)*

⇒ We can thus say that the indefinite form indicates both continuous and instantaneous activities or states, while the progressive form denotes continuous activities only.

◆ The frequentative character of the action

Repeated actions are normally expressed by the indefinite tenses often accompanied by **always, constantly, forever**:

*He always goes to pubs on Sundays.*

*Grandfather constantly smoked his pipe.*

*When in London, he constantly visited museums and art galleries.*

These time indicators are combined with the progressive tenses when the speaker wants to indicate frequent repetition with the suggestion of annoyance, irritation, disapproval, or even pleasure:

*He is always going to pubs on Sundays. (anger)*

*He is constantly spilling tea on the carpet. (annoyance)*

*He is always dreaming of her. (pleasure)*

⇒ The statements with the indefinite form are matter-of-fact and objective, those with the progressive contain an element of exaggeration brought about by emotion (emotional colouring, subjective).

◆ The permanent or temporary character of the action

The indefinite form is used to indicate permanent activities or states and permanent repetition.

*The earth turns round the sun.*  
*The sun rises in the east.*  
*My husband does the cooking.*

The progressive form may indicate activities repeated within a limited period of time but not permanent repetition.

*Mrs. Black is doing the cooking this week.*

The sentence indicates that the activity is repeated, but over a limited period of time, i. e. it is temporary.

The period of time is often shown to be limited by adjuncts such as **this (that) week, these days, those days.**

Involuntary vs. voluntary actions

When verbs of perception (feel, hear, notice, recognize, see, smell, taste) refer to something involuntary only the indefinite form is used.

*Do you hear a noise outside?*  
*I see the sky.*

But these verbs may be used in the progressive tenses when they have special meaning expressing voluntary activities:

*The judge is hearing a witness.*  
*I am feeling this material to see whether it is wool or not.*  
*I am smelling these perfumes and trying to decide which to buy.*

<i>to eat</i>	durative
<i>to eat an apple</i>	terminative
<i>to eat apples</i>	durative
↳ Depends on whether the DO is limited or not.	

<i>to eat</i>	terminative
<i>to sneeze once</i>	terminative
<i>to sneeze for an hour</i>	terminative (frequ.)

*He sneezed for an hour*  
*He was sneezing.*  
*He was sneezing for an hour.* Stylistically considered bad, because it expresses the same thing once (progressive + *an hour*)

## MOOD

⇒ A form of the verb that shows in what relation to the reality the speaker places and action or state expressed by the verb. The speaker may present an action or state as reality, command, request, desirable, doubtful, unreal, etc.

3 different types of mood:

◆ **Indicative Mood**

Present the event as an actual fact. If the speaker uses negation, he denies the event's existence.

*George reads books.*  
*The moon is not a planet.*      negation  
*Is she pregnant again?*      interrogative

The interrogative form inquires into facts.

*The Earth is flat.*      the speaker perceives this as a fact, so it is still indicative.



◆ **Imperative Mood**

Expresses the speaker's order, command, request, wish, warning, etc. - the speaker urges the addressee to fulfil an action.

Talk! } 2<sup>nd</sup> person sg., pl.  
 Don't talk! }  
 Let me do it! } 3<sup>rd</sup> person sg., pl (let + base)  
 Let's go! }

Shut the door, will you?

Will you is often added to an imperative; it changes the order or command into a polite request.

Let's play another game, shall we?

Shall (we), instead of will (we)

Please, do take another piece of cake. the persuasive imperative

It is typical of the imperative that the subject is not expressed. Using the subject in imperative implies strong irritation.

You be quiet! subject of the imperative can only take the initial position  
 Somebody open the door!

Mary, open the door. = Open the door, Mary. vocative subject can take the final, initial, middle position.

Why don't you just disappear? Quasi-imperative

◆ **Subjunctive Mood**

Is frequently replaced - optional.

▷ PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE

	TO BE		TO SPEAK	
1 <sup>st</sup>	I be	we be	I speak	we speak
2 <sup>nd</sup>	you be	you be	you speak	you speak
3 <sup>rd</sup>	he be	they be	he speak	they speak
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.

○ The mandative subjunctive

*The committee insists that this decision be reconsidered.*

Typically occurs in formal registers, usually in written discourse. Always occurs in the subordinate clause, that must be introduced by a noun, verb, adjective denoting demand. The subordinate clause must convey the meaning of a command, order, ...

*It is imperative that each member of this club inform himself of these rules.*  
 The subordinate clause is introduced by an adjective.

The requirement that all passengers be thoroughly searched was not well accepted.  
 The subordinate clause is introduced by a noun.

The committee insists that this decision should be reconsidered.  
 ↳ Putative should replacing the subjunctive

The committee insists on this decision being reconsidered.  
 It is imperative for each member of this club to inform himself of these values.  
 ↳ Replacing the subjunctive.

When negating the present conjunction: *not* before the verb (without *do, does*). With the verb *be*, *not* can follow or precede the verb.

*It is essential that this mission not fail.*

○ The formulaic subjunctive

Restricted to set expressions/phrases, idioms

*Come what may.*  
*God save the queen.*  
*Suffice it to say that George is a crook.*  
*Be that as it may, we have nothing to lose.*

○ Other uses of the present subjunctive:

↳ condition, concession, purpose,.. but it sounds formal

*Whatever be the reason for this action, we cannot tolerate such disloyalty.*  
*Whether she be right or wrong, she will always have my support.*

▷ PAST SUBJUNCTIVE (The WERE SUBJUNCTIVE)

	TO BE		TO SPEAK	
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>I were</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>he</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>	<i>/</i>
	<i>were</i>			
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.

Substitute forms for the (non-existent) past subjunctive are the past tense forms = the modal past tense

	TO BE		TO SPEAK	
1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>I was</i>	<i>we were</i>	<i>I spoke</i>	<i>we spoke</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> d	<i>you were</i>	<i>you were</i>	<i>you spoke</i>	<i>you spoke</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>he was</i>	<i>they were</i>	<i>he spoke</i>	<i>they spoke</i>
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.

⇒ The past subjunctive is mostly used in conditional clauses, denoting rejected or hypothetical condition for past and future.

*If George were serious, he would call you back.*  
*If I were sociable, I would talk more.*  
*George behaves as if he were a king.*  
*I wish she were politer.*  
*Suppose everyone were to give up their belongings.*

Were is used:

- In conditional clauses
- After **as if** and **as though**
- After **wish** when an unrealizable desire is expressed

But: *It's time I was in bed*

Consider:

*If he was leaving you, you would have heard about it.*      more likely for him to be leaving her  
*If He were leaving you, you would have heard about it.*      hypothetical

## VOICE

⇒ Voice is the category of the verb which indicates whether the subject acts or is acted upon. There are two voices:

▷ ACTIVE

Indicates that the subject acts, that it stands for the doer of the action:

*The soldiers are building a new bridge.*

▷ PASSIVE

Indicates that the subject is acted upon, that it stands for the receiver of the action.

*A new bridge is being built.*