

ENGLISH GRAMMAR 1

CATEGORIES OF THE VERB

- Greenbaum and Quirk, 1990: pp. 41-60
 - Blaganje and Konte, 1998: pp. 198-220
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Number

- **singular** (sg.) – **plural** (pl.)
 - Slovene: dual (du.)
 - Dual in English is expressed by:
 - Both
 - The two
 - Neither (means: one or the other)
 - Either (means: one or the other)
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Person - [oseba]

Grammatical person: are participants in an event

- ❑ **1st person** (speaker/writer)
 - ❑ **2nd person** (addressee)
 - ❑ **3rd person** (others)
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Tense- [čas]

- ~~time~~: a universal, real-life category
 - tense**: a grammatical category
 - Greenbaum and Quirk (1990): 2 tenses (present and past)
 - Future tense: does not exist - no inflected form of the verb
 - Aspect-tense combinations: in English grammar **aspects and tenses are combined!**
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Aspect - [glagolski vid]

- Reflects **how the action of the verb is viewed** with respect to time
 - Difficult to separate from tense (they are combined: *I`m working.* – *which is aspect and which tense?*)
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Aspect - [glagolski vid]

□ *Can be:*

- Perfect
 - Nonperfect
 - Progressive / Continuous
 - Simple / Nonprogressive / Indefinite
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Voice - [glagolski način]

- Reflects whether the S is the doer of the action
 - Affects only transitive verbs
 - Can be:
 - **Active** (S: the doer of action)
 - **Passive** (S: the receiver of action)
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Mood - [glagolski naklon]

- Reflects in what relation to reality the speaker places the action
- Is related to **modality** (modal verbs)

If I were you... = If I would be you...

- 3 moods:
 - **Indicative**
 - **Imperative**
 - **Subjunctive**
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Finitness- [osebnost glagola]

- Does the verb show person, number, mood tense contrast?
 - Can be:
 - **Finite** - [osebna glagolska oblika]
 - **Nonfinite** (=not limited by the subject)
[neosebna glagolska oblika]
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An overview of the tenses

- **Aspect - tense system** (we always discuss the aspects at the same time we are discussing tenses)
 - **Present** tenses
 - **Past** tenses
 - Expressions referring to futurity (**future** tenses)
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Temporal relations

Hans Reichenbach (1947) *Elements of Symbolic Logic* – he introduced:

- point of **speech**: time of utterance, speaking (usually now)
- point of **reference**: the time to which the sentence refers
- point of **event**: time of the event

(most of sentences describe even but not all: I was at home yesterday – no event. But: I was at home yesterday when I heard him. – there is an event)

Example

I shall have seen John.

- point of **speech**: the time of uttering, saying the above statement (now).
 - **Event**: seeing John; point of event: the time when I saw John.
 - point of **reference**: the event (seeing John) will have occurred before the point I am referring to.
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Example

I am sitting.

- point of **speech**: now
- point of **reference**: now
- point of **event**: now

The three points coincide.

Temporal relations

- **Simultaneity** (coinciding)
 - **Anteriority** (events happen before other event)
 - **Posteriority** (events happen after other event)
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Tenses and temporal relations

- $E=S=R$ in present simple
 - $E=R$ before S in past simple
 - S before $E=R$ in future

 - perfect tenses: R precedes E
- * E = point of event
 - * S = point of speech
 - * R = point of reference
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