

## CONDITIONALITY AND CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Conditional clauses state the condition that must be satisfied before the action of the main clause can come true.

A conditional sentence:

- a subordinate conditional clause or the PROTASIS or the condition
- a main clause or the APODOSIS or the consequent

CLASSIFICATION OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES:

- OPEN CONDITION, FUTURE TIME REFERENCE (protasis: present tense; apodosis: future will):  
*If she comes, that'll be a great surprise.*
- OPEN CONDITION, PRESENT TIME REFERENCE (protasis: present tense; apodosis: present tense):  
*If she comes, that is a great surprise.*
- OPEN CONDITION, PAST TIME REFERENCE (protasis: past tense; apodosis: past tense):  
*If she came, that was a great surprise.*
- OPEN CONDITION, MIXED (protasis: past tense; apodosis: future will):  
*If she caught the early train, she will be here any minute.*
- REJECTED CONDITION, PRESENT & FUTURE TIME REFERENCE (protasis: past tense; apodosis: future would):  
*If she came, that would be a great surprise.*
- REJECTED CONDITION, PAST TIME REFERENCE (protasis: past perfect; apodosis: perfect would):  
*If she had come, that would have been a great surprise.*
- REJECTED CONDITION, MIXED (protasis: past tense; apodosis: perfect would):  
*If he was/were really so rich, he wouldn't have bought a 5-year old car.*

## SUBORDINATORS AND OTHER SYNTACTIC DEVICES

Subordinators:

- IF:
- UNLESS: unless more formal than if not
- IF ONLY: exclamatory sentences, expressing a wish, regret: *If only you weren't so selfish!*
- PROVIDED/PROVIDING, ON CONDITION: strong restriction: *You can go trekking provided you have passed the exam.*
- SUPPOSE/SUPPOSING, IMAGINE, WHAT IF: *Supposing I had done it, what would you have said then?*  
(the imperative suppose & imagine: *Suppose he doesn't come.*)
- IN CASE: precaution needed: *In case he does come round, call me immediately.*  
(a subordinate clause of reason: *He always sleeps by the phone in case something urgent happens at the hospital.*)
- AS LONG AS: *He may go as long as she goes with him.*  
(temporal function: *She held her breath as long as she could.*)
- WITHOUT, WITH: reduced to a prepositional phrase: *Without my help, you are lost.*

Syntactic devices (markers of conditionality):

- INVERSION: a technical operation where the operator precedes a subject of a clause, possible only with anomalous verbs (e.g. were, had, should, might/could + but/just):  
*Had she deserved it, I would have intervened.*  
*Might/Could I but see my native land, I would die a happy man.*
- BUT FOR THAT:  
*He lent me his car. But for that I couldn't have come.*
- OTHERWISE/OR ELSE:  
*You'd better hurry; otherwise you'll miss the train.*
- IMPERATIVE AND:  
*Just tell her that George is here and she will come running.*

## USAGE NOTES

- the PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE in conditional clause of open condition (formal, legal context):  
*If the accused be found guilty, the judge may sentence him twenty years in prison.*
- the PAST SUBJUNCTIVE in hypothetical condition (modal past tense):  
*If John was here, he would soon learn the truth.*
- PUTATIVE SHOULD:  
*If it should come to this, the judge will be alarmed.*
- MODAL WILL expressing willingness  
*If George will come, Mary will come.*
- REPORTED SPEECH of open condition:  
*If you finish on time, we'll go out.*  
*He said if she finished on time, they would go out.*
- REPORTED SPEECH of rejected condition:  
*If she stayed another day, he would drive her home.*

*He said if she stayed another day, he would drive her home.* (no tense shift, the meaning retained)  
*He said that if she had stayed another day, he would have driven her home.* (tense shift, the meaning changed: referring to the past)

#### CONDITIONAL CLAUSES NOT EXPRESSING CONDITIONALITY

##### Rhetorical conditional clauses:

- assertion is patently ABSURD:  
*If you're French, I'm the Pope.*
- assertion is patently TRUE:  
*He's ninety if he's a day.*
- assertion is patently FALSE:  
*If Dave's younger than me, I'll eat my hat.*

##### Indirect condition:

- an conventional expression of POLITENESS:  
*If you don't mind me saying so...*
- a metalinguistic comment either suggesting that the wording is NOT quite PRECISE or that it SHOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD in some sense not intended by the speaker:  
*She's resigning, if you know what I mean.*
- the UNCERTAINTY about the speaker's or the hearer's knowledge required for a correct interpretation of the utterance:  
*I met your girlfriend Caroline last night, if Caroline is your girlfriend.*
- the condition under which the speaker makes the utterance (the REASON FOR THE UTTERANCE):  
*If you are going my way, I need a lift back.*

##### Subordinators with no conditionality:

- WHETHER, OR (reason):  
*You must listen to him whether you like it or not.*
- EVEN IF (concession):  
*Even if you promise me a million dollars, I won't do it.*

## MODALITY

Modality is a semantic category in which the meaning of a clause is reflecting the speaker's judgment of the likelihood of the proposition being true.

Clause:

- modality
- proposition

### The Theory of Speech Acts (Austin, Searle)

1. THE LOCUTIONARY ACT: izrekanje (grammar)
2. THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACT: vplivanje
3. THE PERLOCUTIONARY ACT: učinkovanje

*Shoot her!* 1. construction of V + DO; 2. an order; 3. a shooting action

### WAYS OF EXPRESSING MODALITY:

- MODAL VERBS (auxiliary verbs carrying modal meaning):  
*George should take three pills a day.*
- MODAL FRAMEWORKS or HEDGES (clause imbedded in a higher one with an adjective, verb, or noun of modality):  
*It is possible that George will arrive late.*  
*I believe that George will arrive late.*  
*There is a possibility that George will arrive late.*
- MODAL ADVERBIALS (modal meaning of adverbials):  
*Maybe she is in love.*
- MODAL TENSES:  
*I wish he arrived sooner.*
- MOOD (the use of the subjunctive):  
*I wish Mary were here with me.*

### MODAL TENSES

denoting SIMULTANEITY: *Mrs. Gould said in a tone as if she was repelling an undeserved aspersion.*

denoting POSTERIORITY: *She was beaming with joy as if Andrew was coming home the next day.*

denoting ANTERIORITY: *He look as if he had lost everything.*

### in CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

THE MODAL PAST: *If she came, that would be a great surprise.*

THE MODAL PAST PERFECT: *If she had come, that would have been a great surprise.*

after IT'S (HIGH) TIME, IF ONLY, WISH + a hypothetical verbal form (mandatory)

WISH: *I wish to succeed in life. I wish I were in a position to help you.*

IF ONLY: *If only you worked harder!*

IT'S (HIGH) (ABOUT) TIME: *It's time somebody put a stop to it.*

(temporal function: *It's time for children to go to bed.*)

after AS IF / AS THOUGH, SUPPOSE, IMAGINE, WOULD RATHER + (optional) a hypothetical verbal form:

AS IF / AS THOUGH: *He behaves as if he owned the place.*

AS IF + verbs of 'SEEMING' (SEEM, APPEAR, LOOK, SOUND, FEEL, SMELL, TASTE): *It smells as if it is/were sour.*

(non-modal structures after AS IF with non-finite verbal forms: *He used to when he was just a kitten stand and stare up at as if asking a question.*)

imperatives SUPPOSE / IMAGINE: *Suppose/Imagine he is/was/were lost.*

WOULD RATHER: *I'd rather I was/were in bed.*

## MODAL VERBS AND MODALITY

◇ EPISTEMIC MODALITY is concerned with the speaker's deduction, judgment, opinion, and possible truth.

*George may be in his office.*

□ DEONTIC MODALITY expresses speaker's attitude to social factors of obligation, responsibility, and commitment.

*George can come in now.*

DYNAMIC MODALITY comprises volition, power, habit, ability, and concession. (not expressing speaker's opinion or attitude)

*George can run ten miles with ease.*

## EPISTEMIC MODALITY

### 1. Certainty, logical necessity, conclusive judgement

#### MUST

a) deduction, logical necessity: *She must be older than me.*

○ GENERAL PRESENT: *He must be Dutch.*

○ REAL PRESENT: *The light is on. He must be in his office.*

○ FUTURE: *He must come tomorrow.*

○ PAST: *George looks exuberant. He must have left his wife.*

○ IN NEGATION REPLACED BY CANNOT: *She cannot be Dutch.*

#### HAVE TO

b) stronger necessity: *I don't believe you. She has to be older than me.*

#### WILL

c) conclusion based on experience: *He will be in his office, I know him.* \*a)○2

### 2. Probability

#### WILL

a) supposition or probability (reasonable to expect): *By now they will be eating dinner.*

○ PRESENT: *Tell him I'm involved - he will know me.*

○ PAST: *My daughter will not have told you about her plans.*

○ FUTURE (no distinction between future and epistemic will): *George will come tomorrow.*

#### SHALL

b) a formal equivalent of the epistemic will (1<sup>st</sup> person only): *We shall have no alternative but to close the factory, unless your business improves.*

#### SHOULD

c) probability, likelihood: *He should have arrived by now.*

d) evaluative should in subordinate clauses after expressions of surprise: *It's ridiculous that I should be allowed to study at this university.*

#### OUGHT TO

e) a less formal equivalent of the epistemic should (but not evaluative should): *You ought to meet her.*

### 3. Possibility

#### CAN

a) objective possibility, based on previous experience: *Teachers can make mistakes.*

b) habitual reading: *Lightning can be dangerous.*

#### COULD

c) a smaller degree of possibility than can: *She could be in his office.*

○ PAST POSSIBILITY: *He could have left.*

○ HABITUAL PAST ACTIVITY: *You could drive miles without coming across a petrol station.*

#### MAY

d) subjective possibility, factual, not theoretical, uncertain: *He may come tomorrow.*

○ PAST POSSIBILITY: *You may have met her.*

ADVERBS strengthen the possibility: *John may possibly/well come tomorrow.*

#### MIGHT

e) a smaller degree of possibility than may: *She might be right.*

○ PAST POSSIBILITY (often possibility which was not realised): *You might have met her.*

#### BE + the infinitive

f) objective possibility ('It is reasonable to suppose that...'): *What is to be said at the end? What can be said at the end?*

#### SHOULD

g) in rhetorical questions expressing assumption, possibility, perplexity: *How should I know?*

### 4. Uncertainty, improbability

#### CAN/COULD NOT

the modality negated: *George cannot have seen her.*

- rarely uncertainty (influence of the context): *He can't be a very strong man. What do you think?*

MAY/MIGHT NOT

the proposition is negated: *George may not have seen her.*

SHOULD NOT/UGHT NOT TO

- not probable: *Considering how much you have studied, you shouldn't fail your exam.*

WILL NOT

the proposition is negated: *George won't be in his office.*

## 5. Impossibility

CAN/COULD NOT

a) replaces negated must and have to: *She cannot be Dutch.*

b) impossibility: *This device can't hurt your child.*

the modality is negated: *He can't be working at this hour.*

double negation constructions: *He cannot not go to Rome. = He must go to Rome.*

BE NOT + the infinitive

## DEONTIC MODALITY

### 1. Obligation, necessity

HAVE TO

a) external, general, public, objective obligation (independent from the speaker): *He has to go to the hospital.*

b) omintemporal function (habits, general states): *I have to travel by car.*

MUST

c) internal, subjective, self-obligation (speaker with the authority): *I must go now.*

○ FUTURE REPLACED BY HAVE TO: *I'll have to wait for hours again.*

○ PAST REPLACED BY HAD TO: *She had to return home.*

○ NO TENSE SHIFT IN THE REPORTED SPEECH: *George said that he must be back at ten o'clock.*

d) requirement (impersonal obligation): *Old people must be treated with care.*

e) invitations and offers in host/guest situation: *You must come and visit us sometimes.*

BE + the infinitive

f) a reasonable course of action, or orders, instructions, commands that exclude the speaker: *You are to come tomorrow.*

WILL

g) a command: *You will come on time!*

SHALL

h) in rules and regulations (1<sup>st</sup> person only): *A player who bids incorrectly shall loose fifty points.*

SHOULD/UGHT TO

i) (moral) obligation, duty, or what is thought to be advisable: *You should be more careful.*

○ SHOULD + PERFECT INFINITIVE: *You should have been ashamed.* (obligation not carried out)

○ SHOULDN'T + PERFECT INFINITIVE: *You shouldn't have teased her.* (undesirable action carried out)

j) the putative should (no ought to) appears instead of the present subjunctive in subordinate clauses: *It's vital/imperative that he should come to the meeting. She instated that he should be dismissed.*

NEED

k) in negative or interrogative sentences as a counterpart of the deontic must: *"Need you be so strict?" "I'm afraid I must."*

### 2. Permission

CAN

a) asking, granting, not giving: *You can stay here as long as you like.*

COULD

b) tentative attitude (a polite request): *Could I use your phone, please?*

○ HABITUAL PAST: *He could stay up late.*

○ PAST CAN/COULD, SINGLE OCCURRENCE: *He was allowed to stay up late.*

MAY

c) asking, granting, not giving permission: *May I offer you a drink?*

○ PAST MAY/MIGHT REPLACED BY ALLOWED OR PERMITTED: *I was allowed/permitted to go.*

○ NO TENSE SHIFT IN THE REPORTED SPEECH: *I asked my mother if I might go to the party.*

MIGHT

d) denotes hesitation or special politeness: *Might I ask your name?*

BE ALLOWED TO

○ PAST CAN/COULD: *He was allowed to stay up late.*

○ PAST MAY/MIGHT: *I was allowed/permitted to go.*

3. Recommendation, suggestion, advice, request

CAN/COULD

- a) strong recommendation, command (sometimes with a touch of irony): *You can say that again.*
- b) suggestion, advice, and request: *Can I phone you back?*

MAY/MIGHT

- c) suggestion, recommendation
- more formal or polite expression: *You might want to rewrite your essay.*
- as a set expression: *If I may, I would comment on your thesis.*

WILL

- d) a suggestion: *We'll keep in touch, then.*
- e) intention, treat, promise: *We shall succeed where the others have failed.*

SHALL

- f) intention, suggestion (1<sup>st</sup> person only): *Shall we go?*

SHOULD

- g) advice, suggestion, recommendation: *You should work harder.*

OUGHT TO

interchangeable with should, except the putative should

4. Absence of obligation, necessity

DO NOT HAVE TO

- a) (modality is negated): *You don't have to go into great details.*

NEED NOT

5. Prohibition

CANNOT

- a) refusal, prohibition, the refused permission: *You cannot leave now.*

MUST NOT

- b) (preposition is negated): *You must not bring the cat into the house.*

MAY NOT

- c) refusing permission, only as a reply to a question: *May I leave now? No, you may not.*

SHOULD NOT

- d) *You shouldn't tease her.*

BE NOT ALLOWED TO

- e) pure prohibition (modality negated): *He wasn't allowed to bring the cat into the house.*

## DYNAMIC MODALITY

### CAN/COULD

ability on the part of the speaker: *John can run three miles with ease.*

(with verbs of sense and perception no ability implied: *I can see the moon.*)

power (ability of the inanimate nouns): *Religion can conserve the highest ideals and values.*

characteristic behaviour: *He can be very unkind sometimes.*

### WILL

volition or willingness: *You cannot find a publisher who will take it.*

insistence/determination or refusal (strong volition): *She loves him, she won't leave him.*

a feeling of annoyance: *"I'm soaked to the skin." "Well, if you will go out without raincoat, what can you expect?"*

power (volition of inanimate nouns): *Some drugs will improve the condition.*

characteristic behaviour: *Accidents will happen. Boys will be boys.*

habits or repetitions: *She will sit for hours watching television.*

inference (general truths, facts): *Oil will float on water.*

disposition: *This tent will sleep five.*

### --MAY--

- a) modality-neutral auxiliary verb

subordinate clauses of concession: *She may be stubborn, but I still love her. (Even though she is...)*

subordinate clauses of purpose: *He stepped aside so that the teacher might enter.*

subordinate clauses beginning with whatever, whenever, however: *Our mission will be a success, however unreasonable it may be.*

- b) quasi-subjunctive

an exclamatory wish (archaic): *May God grant your happiness!*

## THE REPORTED SPEECH

### Changes:

1. GRAMMATICAL: clause patterns (questions > declaratives), conjunctions, punctuation
2. SITUATIONAL: personal pronouns, possessive pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, adverbs of time and place
3. SEQUENCE OF TENSES

### THE SEQUENCE OF TENSES does not apply for:

- the PRESENT INDEFINITE TENSE when the speaker wants to indicate that what was told is still true at the moment of speaking (universal truths, habits):  
*Your teacher told me you can speak French fluently.*
- the PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSE and the 'GOING TO' STRUCTURE when the point of event is still in the future in the moment of reporting:  
*Let me see. Today is Sunday and he said he is leaving on Monday.*
- the FUTURE TENSE when denoting an action in the future of reporting:  
*He told me this morning that he will go with us tomorrow.*
- the PRESENT PERFECT TENSE when the actions are inclusive:  
*I was very sorry to learn from your wife that you have been ill recently.*

### MODALITY in the reported speech:

- BE, HAVE TO, DO > change into WAS/WERE, HAD TO, DID
- MUST > unchanged  
(denoting obligation, necessity: *He said that he must / had to do it as soon as possible.*)
- MUSTN'T > unchanged  
(denoting negative obligation, prohibition: *Peter said that you mustn't / weren't to go.*)
- CAN > changes into COULD
- COULD > unchanged  
(with a future time reference: *He said that she could / would be able to do it the next day.*)  
(denoting a permission: *She was happy when she realized that she could / was allowed to go to the party.*)
- MAY > changes into MIGHT
- MIGHT > unchanged
- WILL > changes into WOULD
- WOULD > unchanged
- SHALL > when denoting pure future, changes into SHOULD for the 1<sup>st</sup> person and WOULD for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person
- SHALL > changes into SHOULD
- SHOULD > unchanged
- NEED > unchanged
- NEEDN'T > changes into NOT HAVE TO when expressing the absence of obligation
- OUGHT (TO) > unchanged
- DARE > unchanged
- USED (TO) > unchanged

### CONDITIONAL SENTENCES in the reported speech:

- OPEN CONDITION FOR THE PRESENT & FUTURE:  
*"I'll tell you if I hear from him."  
She said she would tell me if she heard from him.*
- REJECTED / HYPOTHETICAL CONDITION FOR THE PRESENT & FUTURE:  
*"I'd tell you if I heard from him."  
She said she would tell me if she heard from him.  
She said she would have told me if she had heard from him. (implication: she didn't hear a thing from him.)*
- REJECTED / HYPOTHETICAL CONDITION FOR PAST:  
*"I would've told you if I'd heard from him."  
She said she would have told me if she had heard from him.*

## THE NON-FINITE VERBAL FORMS

### 1. THE INTRODUCTION

INFINITIVE			
tense	aspect	voice	
		active	passive
present	indefinite	<i>to make</i>	<i>to be made</i>
	progressive	<i>to be making</i>	/
perfect	indefinite	<i>to have made</i>	<i>to have been made</i>
	progressive	<i>to have been making</i>	

GERUND		
tense	voice	
	active	passive
present	<i>making</i>	<i>being made</i>
perfect	<i>having made</i>	<i>having been made</i>

PARTICIPLE		
tense	voice	
	active	passive
present	<i>making</i>	<i>being made</i>
perfect	<i>having made</i>	<i>having been made</i>
past	<i>made</i>	

#### Double nature of the non-finites

- verbal function
- nominal (infinitive, gerund) vs. adjectival-adverbial function (participle)

#### Grammatical categories of the -ing non-finites

- a GERUND: *Mary loves gossiping.*
- a PRESENT PARTICIPLE: *I saw him coming out of the shop.*
- an ADJECTIVE: *his surprising views*  
(adjectives vs. participles used as adjectives: *There was a child in the burning house.*)  
(*unspoken* = adjective; *the last words spoken between us* = past participle)
- a CONJUNCTION (originally a participle): *Supposing/Providing we lose, what then?*
- a PREPOSITION: *He came to see me regarding the Kuwait business.*
- a NOUN: *at the beginning*  
(nouns vs. gerunds used as nouns: *The building of that bridge took years to finish.*)

#### Tests for distinguishing gerunds from participles

- PARAPHRASING:  
*sleeping bag* > bag for sleeping > nominal function, gerund  
*the Sleeping Beauty* > the Beauty that is sleeping > adjectival function, participle
- DISTRIBUTION OF THE STRESS IN SPEECH:  
*'visiting ,hours* > primary stress on the -ing form > nominal function, gerund  
*,visiting 'relatives* > primary stress on the noun > adjectival function, participle
- THE USE OF CONJUNCTIONS AND PREPOSITIONS:  
*(Up)On being told the news, he fainted.* > a PREPOSITION > nominal properties, gerund  
*While being told the news, he fainted.* > a CONJUNCTION > verbal properties, participle  
(+ *Before/After my coming there...* > 'before' and 'after' as a PREPOSITION > gerund)  
(+ *Before/After being told...* > 'before' and 'after' as a CONJUNCTION > participle)

#### Tense distinction of non-finite forms

- present vs. perfect infinitive:  
*You're a fool to spend so much on clothes.* > SIMULTANEITY  
*You were a fool to spend so much on clothes.* > SIMULTANEITY  
*You're a fool to have spent so much on clothes.* > ANTERIORITY  
*You were a fool to have spent so much on clothes.* > ANTERIORITY
- present vs. perfect participle:  
*Hearing the news, he cancelled the celebration.*  
time: '*When he heard*' (SIMULTANEITY) and '*After he heard*' (ANTERIORITY)  
cause, reason: '*Because he heard*' (SIMULTANEITY) and '*Because he had heard*' (ANTERIORITY)

*Having heard the news, he cancelled the celebration.*

time: 'After he heard' (ANTERIORITY)

cause: 'Because he had heard' (ANTERIORITY)

- present vs. perfect gerund:

*On hearing the news, they cancelled the celebration. (Because of hearing the news...)*

time: 'When they heard' (SIMULTANEITY) and 'After they heard' (ANTERIORITY)

*On having heard the news, they cancelled the celebration.*

time: 'After they had heard' (ANTERIORITY)

The subject of the non-finite forms

- not expressed:

identical with that of the final verb: *She had suffered concussion playing rugby football.*

general: *To err is human, to forgive is divine.*

understood from the context or situation: *Why worry about it when it's too late.*

- expressed, the infinitive:

a nominal phrase: *Will you expect US to study all this rubbish?*

a preposition FOR + a nominal phrase: *There's no need FOR US to be dying of curiosity.*

((object-subject pattern (verbs of perception): *I heard HIM say it.))*

- expressed, the gerund:

a nominal phrase: *I had no doubts as to THAT being true.*

possessive case (adjective) [formal]: *Would you mind MY opening the window?*

common case (noun), objective case (pronoun) [colloquial]: *Forgive JOHN/ME interrupting you.*

- expressed, the participle:

a nominal phrase: *The boy turned around, HIS HEART beating with joy.*

object-subject pattern (verbs of perception): *I saw HER taking the money.*

o the RELATED PARTICIPLE (subject the same): *Seeing her in despair, HE immediately offered her his help.*

o the UNRELATED PARTICIPLE (general subject in the subordinate clause): *Judging from her appearance, she must be well off.*

o the ABSOLUTE PARTICIPLE (subject of its-own in the subordinate clause): *THE WORK done, he hurried home.*

o the MISRELATED PARTICIPLE: *\*Barking furiously, HE let the dogs out.*

## 2. THE INFINITIVE

### 2.1. Verbal properties of the infinitive

It functions as a predicator in a non-finite clause:

1. In the main clause

set expression, non typical for the infinitive: *Why not ring him up?*

2. In the subordinate clause

- subordinate NOMINAL clause: *What you see is what you get.*

- subordinate ADVERBIAL clause: *He'd be stupid not to accept that offer.*

- subordinate ADJECTIVAL clause (PostM): (zero infinitive) *The person who told you the news was John.*

The present and perfect tense + the indefinite and progressive aspect:

- POSTERIORITY (verbs *intend, hope, want, wish*): *I hope to be back by seven.*

- SIMULTANEITY: *George did it to please Mary.*

- ANTERIORITY: *I am sorry to have called you names.*

- SIMULTANEITY: *Mary seems to be sulking again.*

The Perfect Infinitive

1. general expression of anteriority: *I'll wait for him to have finished his work.*

2. verbs of seeming and appearing: *The aircraft appears to have crashed near Paris.*

3. verbs of reporting: *The bridge is said/believe to have been built by Plečnik.*

4. modal verbs: *They could have come earlier.*

5. verbs like *hope, expect, want, mean*: *I hoped to have saved enough money to buy a new house. (unrealised action)*

The active and passive voice

?

adjective + 'enough' : *He is old enough to be sent abroad.*

### 2.2. Nominal properties of the infinitive

On the level of the sentence structure:

1. the SUBJECT:

*To err is human, to forgive divine.*

*I think it took me about 3 weeks to wake fully up to what you'd done to me.* (the postponed, introductory subject)

2. the OBJECT:

*The officer ordered his men to move.*

3. the SUBJECT COMPLIMENT:

*He felt his duty was to thank the auctioneer.*

On the level of phrase structure:

1. the NOMINAL PHRASE:

- postmodifying a simple headword:

*It's time to say goodbye.*

- a general headword, the meaning of which is specified by the infinitival clause:

*Their hopes to get rich vanished.*

- 'something/nothing' postmodified by an infinitive:

*There is nothing to be afraid of.*

- modal meaning:

*The next train to arrive was from Rome.*

- when there are several postmodifiers, the infinitive comes at the end:

*I could do with someone here all the time to help me turn her.*

2. the ADJECTIVAL PHRASE:

- when the adjectival phrase is a subject or an object complement:

*I find you useful to have around.*

- following the phrase 'It is easy/hard/difficult...':

*It's easy to wash these clothes.* [=the postponed subject]

3. the ADVERBIAL PHRASE:

- with adverbs 'too' or 'enough':

*It's too late to do anything.*

- postmodifying adverbs such as 'anywhere' and 'nowhere':

*She is nowhere to be found.*

### 2.3. THE BARE INFINITIVE

1. after 'do/did' as auxiliary or periphrasis: *But I did do it.*

2. after most anomalous verbs: *She must/may/can/should be very smart.*

3. after 'help': *He's trying to help me save this place.*

4. after 'let' and 'make': *Why are you letting this happen? She makes him believe her.*

5. after verbs of perception: *I saw her kill her old man.* (but in the passive: *You were seen to take the picture.*)

6. in colloquial questions: *Why listen to him?*

7. in explanatory questions or statements implying absurdity: *My daughter marry that hillbilly?*

8. after 'had better', 'had rather', 'would rather', 'would sooner', 'had sooner': *You had better stop now.*

9. miscellaneous: *All I did was hit him on the hand. I cannot but agree with you.*

### 2.4. THE SPLIT INFINITIVE

Refused by some native speakers as unacceptable, it is sometimes used to avoid ambiguity:

*She failed to entirely understand his point.* vs. *She failed entirely to understand.*

### 2.5. THE REPRESENTATIVE (ANAPHORIC) TO

Also called elided infinitive, it is used as a marker of the infinitival structure:

*Have you repaired the car? -I'm going to next week.*

### 2.6. LOOSE ADJUNCT

Those elements in the clause that are not incorporated in the structure do not function as sentence elements but independent elements used to express the opinion of the speaker towards the situation described in the clause:  
*to tell (you) the truth, to cut a long story short*

## 3. THE GERUND

### 3.1. The nominal properties of the gerund

With a PREDMODIFIER:

- with an article: *The singing died away.*
- with a demonstrative: *This horrible slipping into unreality drove him mad.*
- with a possessive adjective: *He laughed at her railing.*
- with a Saxon genitive: *A child's crying makes me sick.*
- with a numeral: *She did one washing yesterday.*
- with an adjective: *She heard the deep running of the water.*

With a POSTMODIFIER:

- with an of-phrase: *She loved the rocking of the gig.*
- with a relative (adjectival) clause: *She was startled by the giggling which was coming from the room.*

In the PLURAL FORM:

- *He had no idea about the recent goings-on.*

The SYNTACTIC FUNCTIONS:

- on the sentence level:

SUBJECT: *The singing died away.*

OBJECT: *He felt a suffering like a fate.*

PREPOSITIONAL OBJECT: *He calmly laughed at her railing.*

SUBJECT COMPLIMENT: *His chief hobby is gardening.*

- on the phrase level:

HEADWORD of the nominal phrase: *His handling of the situation was masterly.*

COMPLIMENT in a prepositional phrase: *He was waked by an insistent tapping on his door.*

PREMODIFIER in a nominal phrase: *a walking stick*

No tense and voice distinction:

- *She adores dancing to rap music.*

### 3.2. The verbal properties of the gerund

TENSE distinction:

- SIMULTANEITY: *She adores dancing to rap music.*
- ANTERIORITY: *She was always reminded of having made a faux pas.*

VOICE distinction:

- PASSIVE: *She hates being told what to do.*
- ACTIVE: *She loves telling others what to do.*

Clausal structure:

- takes a DIRECT OBJECT, an INDIRECT OBJECT, ADJUNCTS: *Building a bridge in that area must be difficult.*
- takes a SUBJECT of its own (expressed subject): *I can't stand him being so reckless.*

### 3.3. Nominal vs. verbal properties

- the subject of the gerund:

NOMINAL GERUND: *Forgive my interrupting you.* (possessive case, formal)

VERBAL GERUND: *Forgive me interrupting you.* (objective case, colloquial)

- functions:

NOMINAL GERUND: *The arranging of music is a major focus of graduate programme.*

VERBAL GERUND: *Arranging music can be difficult.* (process)

### 3.4. The gerund vs. the infinitive

- as a subject in a GENERAL SENSE:

the infinitive implies a theoretical statement: *It's easier to read French than to speak it.*

the gerund implies personal experience: *Reading French is easier than speaking it.*

- as a subject with reference to a SINGLE OCCASION, the infinitive is commoner:

*He insisted on our coming and it was impossible to refuse.* (a postponed subject)

- after certain catenatives only infinitive possible:

*I can't afford to wait any longer.*

- after certain catenatives only gerund possible:

*Avoid speaking too quickly in the classroom.*

- after certain catenatives both possible:

### 3.5. The nominalising tendencies in English and the gerund

- NOUN PHRASES which correspond to the structure of the CLAUSE:

*his refusal to help > He refuses to help.*

- OBJECT to the verb becomes a premodifying NOUN:

*They climb mountains. > mountain climbing*

- the premodifying NOUN becomes an ADVERBIAL ADJUNCT:

*They skate on ice. > ice-skating*

## 4. THE PARTICIPLE

### 4.1. Verbal properties of the participle:

- time reference for the present and perfect participle:  
SIMULTANEITY: *The plane crashed, its engines exploding as it hit the ground.*  
immediate ANTERIORITY (verbs of sense/perception + a terminative verb): *Noticing the smoke, she ran out.*  
SIMULTANEITY and ANTERIORITY: *Drinking his coffee, he rushed out of his room.*  
explicit ANTERIORITY (the perfect participle): *Having returned home, he was blissful.*
- time reference for the past participle:  
SIMULTANEITY - state/result of the preceding activity -
  - (a TRANSITIVE VERB with the passive meaning): *She bought a book written by Agatha Christie.*
  - (a TERMINATIVE VERB): *the long-forgotten star (the star who has been forgotten for a long time)*
- ANTERIORITY - denoting an activity -
  - (an INTRANSITIVE VERB): *the escaped prisoner (the prisoner who has escaped)*

### Adverbial participial clause (participles as predicators)

- RELATED (the same subject): *Seeing her in despair, he offered help.*
- UNRELATED (different subjects): *Judging from her appearance, she is well-off.*
- ABSOLUTE: *The work done, she hurried home.*
- MISRELATED: *\*Barking furiously, he let the dogs out.*

### Adverbial participial clause (participles as adjuncts)

- functioning as an adjunct:  
*Coming home, she gave him a ring.*
- supplementary adverbial clause (describing an accompanied action, which is a result of the first one):  
*She went out, slamming the door.*

### Attributive participial clause

- ADJECTIVAL FUNCTION as a postmodifier:  
*He noticed a girl sitting in the corner. (relative clause in progressive tense: who was sitting in the corner)*  
*All the persons attacked by the mysterious raider live next door. (relative clause in the passive voice: who have been attacked by the mysterious rider)*  
*It was only then that he noticed a strange man deeply lost in his thoughts. (relative clause with a linking verb and a subject complement: a man who was deeply lost in his thoughts)*

### 4.2. Adjectival properties of the participles

- HEADWORD in an adjectival phrase: *They were shocked.*
- PREMODIFYING the nominal phrase: *the setting sun*
- POSTMODIFYING the nominal phrase: *the greatest poet living*
- NOMINALIZED ADJECTIVES: *the living and the dying*

### 4.3. Adverbial properties of the participles

- PREMODIFYING the adjectival phrase (INTENSIFIERS): *The water was steaming hot.*

### 4.4. The supplementary participial clause

- Participial clause typically added at the end of the sentence, adding explanations to what has been narrated before:
- *It was quite alarming - looking back on it.*

## 5. CATENATIVE VERBS

## THE PASSIVE VOICE

The passive scale:

### 1. CENTRAL PASSIVE

describing an action

active-passive transformation possible

agented passive possible

no coordination, no premodification

*This violin was made by Stradivari.*

### 2. SEMI-PASSIVE

describing an action or state

active-passive transformation possible

agented passive possible

coordination and premodification possible

*Leonard was interested and keen on linguistics.*

### 3. PSEUDO-PASSIVE

describing a state

no active-passive transformation

only agentless passive

coordination and premodification possible

*Mary was decently dressed and ready.*

### 4. NOTIONAL PASSIVE

intransitive active verbs, also known as 'ergative verbs'

*The clock winds at the back.*

Criteria for choosing between the active and the passive:

#### 1. Relative informative weight of Agent and Patient:

- AGENT UNKNOWN, unspecified

- agent as new information to be placed in the FOCUS POSITION (topic in the initial position)

#### 2. Textual reasons:

- cohesion, TOPIC CONTINUITY

- COMPLEXITY of the agentive NOUN PHRASE (lengthy subject)

#### 3. Psychological reasons:

- agent intentionally CONCEALED (denoting a negative action)

#### 4. Stylistic reasons:

- language REGISTERS (formal language and academic prose tend to overuse the passive)

## ENGLISH VERB II, THE EXAM

### PART I: THE THEORY.

1. Enumerate and exemplify different ways of expressing modality.

2. The modality and the scope of negation.

The modality negated:

MAY - permission: *You may not go until you've finished* (deontic).

CAN - all senses: *You can't smoke here* (deontic). *You can't be serious* (epistemic). *You can't drive a car* (dynamic).

HAVE TO - all senses: *You don't have to pay the fine* (deontic). *It doesn't always have to be my fault* (epistemic).

NEED NOT - all senses: *You needn't pay the fine* (deontic). *It needn't always be my fault* (epistemic).

The proposition negated:

MAY - possibility: *They may not come* (epistemic).

MUST - obligation: *They mustn't keep us waiting* (deontic).

WILL - all senses: *Don't worry - I won't interfere* (dynamic). *He won't do what he's told* (deontic). *They won't have received the letter by now* (epistemic).

3. The theoretical and subjective possibility.

4. The uses of the infinitive/gerund/participle.

5. Show the distinction between the present and the perfect form of non-finites.

6. The use of the catenative verbs.

7. The sequence of tenses in the reported speech and the illocutionary force. (?)

8. The passive scale.

9. The relationship between the main and the subordinate clause (syntax, semantics). (?)

Main clause can stand alone, but a subordinate clause cannot.

Introduced by a SUBORDINATE CONJUNCTION: *They papered the living room JUST AS we wanted.*

Introduced by a WH-PRONOUN or an ADVERB: *Tell me WHO did it.*

ZERO MARKER of subordination: *You know you can rely on him.*

INVERSION as a marker of subordination: *Had I seen it coming, I wouldn't react like that.*

10. The negation. (?)

Expresses the contradiction of the sentence's meaning.

NOT-NEGATION: *She does not have a dime.*

NO-NEGATION: *George is no fool.*

The scope of negation:

CLAUSAL/SENTENTIAL NEGATION (auxiliary verb in the scope of negation): *You are not being serious. I can't believe you.*

PREDICATION NEGATION (auxiliary verb out of the scope of negation): *You may simply not answer the question.*

LOCAL NEGATION (sentence element negated): *Cats appear from nowhere.*

Tests for negation:

QUESTION TAGS: *I could hardly be described as modern, could it?*

the SCOPE OF THE AGENT: *It could hardly be described as modern by anybody.*

the possibility of the INVERSION (the S after the P): *Hardly could this method be described as modern.*

### PART II: THE ANALYSIS.

*The building is new.*

- no verbal properties (no action implied)
- can take the plural form
- with the (indefinite) article
- the synthetic function: headword of the subject

*The building of that bridge took years to finish.*

- gerund
- headword of the nominal phrase functioning as a subject

*The house was demolished.*

1. as a CENTRAL passive construction
- *demolishing* action implied,

- *the house* = subject; *was demolished* = predicator
  - context: *When I returned, the house was demolished.* (the resultative meaning)
  - 2. as a STATIVE/PSEUDO passive construction
  - the state of being *demolished*
  - *the house* = subject; *was* = predicator (copula); *demolished* = subject complement (past participle)
  - context: *When I returned, I saw that the house was already demolished.*
- 

01-06-2005 EXAM:

The theory questions:

1. Describe the scope of negation in modality. Exemplify and comment on the double negation constructions with modal verbs.
2. Infinitives as loose adjuncts and their relationship with the remaining part of the sentence.
3. Rejected / hypothetical conditional clauses in reported speech with the reporting verb in the Past Perfect Tense.
4. The passive scale: describe and exemplify.

The analysis instructions:

1. THE MODAL VERBS
  - determine the modality and the time reference
  - rewrite the sentences using another way of expressing modality
2. THE -ING FORMS
  - name the -ing form
  - state the reason to why a particular form is a gerund or a participle
  - synthetic function
3. THE TO-INFINITIVE
  - synthetic function
4. THE PAST PARTICIPLES AND THE REPORTED SPEECH
  - state the reason to why a particular form is used
5. DESCRIBE THE UNDERLINED VERBAL FORM: *≈As if he's looking for words to describe her.*