

# LECTURE 4

## THE VERB

### Plan:

1. The characteristic features of a verb as a part of speech.
2. The types of verbs.
3. The grammatical categories of verbs: voice, mood, tense, number and others.

# Generally verbs have the following features:

1. They express the meanings of action and state.
2. They have the grammatical categories of person, number, tense, aspect, voice, order and posteriority.
3. The function of verbs entirely depends on their forms: finite/non-finite.
4. Verbs can combine actually with all parts of speech, except articles and some pronouns.
5. Verbs have their own stem-building elements:

## prefixes:

~re, rewrite

~mis, misunderstand

~un, uncover

~de, depose

## postfixes:

~fy, simplify

~ize, realize

~ate, activate



**Verbs can be classified from the following point of view: meaning, form-formation, function.**

**Three basic forms of the verb: Infinitive, Past Indefinite, Participle II.**

**Four types of verb-formation:**

- 1) **affixation: reads;**
- 2) **variation of sounds: run-ran, may-might;**
- 3) **suppletive ways: was-were-been;**
- 4) **analytical means: have asked, will come.**

# TYPES OF VERBS IN ENGLISH



*meaning*

notional  
intransitive

functional



*functional  
objects*

regular irregular



*ability of taking*

transitive



## MEANING



*notional*

(full lexical meaning)

*functional*

(link verbs, modal

verbs,

auxiliary



# FORMATION



**regular**

*productive suffixes*

**irregular**

*non-productive means:  
root vowel change,  
suppletion,  
unchanged forms*

# ABILITY OF TAKING OBJECTS



**transitive**

verbs combined  
with direct object or  
space  
prepositional one

**intransitive**

verbs expressing emotions,  
state motion, position in

# GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES OF VERBS

**B.A. Ilyish:** 6 categories: tense, aspect, voice, person, number.

**L. Barkhudarov, D. Steling:** voice, order, aspect, mood.

**B. Khaimovich, Rogovskaya:** 8 categories: voice, order, aspect, mood, posteriority, person, number.



# CATEGORY OF VOICE

**H. Sweet, O. Curne:** inverted object, inverted subject, retained object.

**H. Pousma:** active/passive + reflexive, e.g.  
*He got to bed, covered himself up warm and fell asleep.*

**H. Whitehall:** direct/indirect object – inner/outer complements.

**A.I. Smirnitsky, L. Barkhudarov, L. Steling, B.A. Ilyish** – 2 voices.

# CATEGORY OF MOOD

The problem of category of mood lies in the distinction of the real and unreal expressed by the corresponding form of the verb.

**H. Sweet:** 3 moods: conditional, permissive, compulsive.

**G.O. Curne:** 3 moods: indicative, subjunctive, imperative.

**Mood** is a grammatical category of the verb reflecting the relation of the action expressed by the verb to reality from the speaker's point of view.



# CATEGORY OF TENSE

**H. Sweet:** 3 tenses: present, past, Future.

**Tenses:** simple/compound  
primary/secondary  
complete/incomplete  
continuous/point-tenses  
definite/indefinite

# O. Jespersen



before past	past	after past	<b>PRESENT</b>	before future	future	after future
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# CATEGORY OF POSTERIORITY

**B. Khaimovitch/Rogovskaya**

**(two member position)**

**Absolute/relative posteriority**

**Ex. Shall come – should come**

# CATEGORIES OF NUMBER AND PERSON

Person: 2 member opposition  
(3<sup>rd</sup> person, zero morpheme)

L. Barkhudarov (3<sup>rd</sup> person, zero marker)

3<sup>rd</sup> person                      1<sup>st</sup> person

positive morpheme              zero morpheme