

The Structure of the Verb Group

Outline

1. Auxiliary verbs
 1. Modals
 2. Perfect *have*
 3. Progressive *be*
 4. Passive *be*
 5. The dummy *do*
2. The order of auxiliaries and affix hop
3. Finiteness

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Lexical and Auxiliary Verbs

Five tests for auxiliary verbs:

1. Auxiliaries must be used together with lexical verbs—unless ellipsis occurs.
2. Auxiliaries have little meaning. Instead they express tense and aspect.
3. Auxiliaries invert in questions.
4. Auxiliaries occur before *n't*.
5. Auxiliaries are used in tags.

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Hans Christian Andersen and the Verb Group



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Auxiliaries in "The Ugly Duckling"



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Find the Auxiliaries

2. The stork ... chattered in the Egyptian language, which he had learned from his mother.
54. That old duck ... is the highest born of them all, and has Spanish blood, therefore, she is well off.
55. She has a red flag tied to her leg, which is ... a great honor for a duck.
71. He has remained too long in the egg, and therefore his figure is not properly formed.

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Here are the Auxiliaries

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Find the Auxiliaries

23. "Well, how are you getting on?" asked an old duck, who paid her a visit.
50. Two families were fighting for an eel's head.
67. "The others are very pretty children," said the old duck.
85. His brothers and sisters were unkind to him, and would say, "Ah, you ugly creature, I wish the cat would get you."

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Nine Modals

- | | |
|--------|---|
| can | ■ Modals do not have agreement or tense endings. |
| could | |
| may | |
| might | ■ Modals occur first in a sequence of auxiliaries. |
| shall | |
| should | |
| will | ■ Modals do not require an affix on the verb that follows them. |
| would | |
| must | |

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Find the Modals

76. If you can find an eel's head, you can bring it to me.
95. He bowed to them, and was as polite as he could be.
48. You must keep close to me or you may be trodden upon.
140. The duckling thought that others might hold a different opinion on the subject.

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Here are the Modals

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Find the Modals

214. "I will fly to those royal birds," he exclaimed, "and they will kill me, because I am so ugly."
86. Ah, you ugly creature, I wish the cat would get you.
52. She would have liked the eel's head herself.
136. I hope it is not a drake, for then I shall have some duck's eggs. I must wait and see.

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Here are the Modals

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Five Tests for Auxiliary Verbs

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Semi-Modals

- dare (to), need (to), have to, ought to
- Which auxiliary tests do these modals pass?
 - Which tests do they not pass?

- 214 They will kill me, because I am so ugly, and dare to approach them.
188 The duckling had to paddle with his legs as well as he could.

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Find the Perfect Auxiliary *have*

52. She would have liked the eel's head herself.
2. The stork ... chattered in the Egyptian language, which he had learned from his mother.
71. He has remained too long in the egg, and therefore his figure is not properly formed.

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Perfect Auxiliary *have*

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Perfect Auxiliary have

- Perfect auxiliary + *-ed* affix
 - have liked
 - had learned
 - has remained
- Where's the affix on these lexical verbs?
 - has gone, have taken, has put

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Find the Progressive Auxiliary be

9. She was beginning to get tired of her task.
23. "Well, how are you getting on?" asked an old duck, who paid her a visit.
50. Two families were fighting for an eel's head.
64. "Let him alone," said the mother; "he is not doing any harm."

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Progressive Auxiliary be

9. She was beginning to get tired of her task.
23. "Well, how are you getting on?" asked an old duck, who paid her a visit.
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Progressive Auxiliary be

- Progressive auxiliary + *-ing* affix
 - was beginning
 - are getting on
 - were fighting
 - is doing

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Find the Passive Auxiliary be

77. The poor duckling ... was bitten and pushed and made fun of, not only by the ducks, but by all the poultry.
84. The poor duckling was driven about by every one.
60. The ducklings did as they were bid.
57. She can be recognized both by man and beast.

23

Passive Auxiliary be

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Passive Auxiliary be

- Passive auxiliary + *-ed* affix
 - was pushed
 - be recognized
- Where's the affix on these lexical verbs?
 - was put, was bitten, were bid
 - was driven about
 - was made fun of

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Auxiliary? Or Lexical Verb?

24. "One egg is not hatched yet," said the duck.
71. His figure is not properly formed.
9. She was beginning to get tired of her task.
32. "As I have sat so long already, a few days will be nothing."
48. You may be trodden upon.
3. The corn-fields and meadows were surrounded by large forests.
85. His brothers and sisters were unkind to him.

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Auxiliary

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Lexical Verb

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Dummy do

- Lexical verbs require do to form negatives and questions:
 96. "You are exceedingly ugly," said the wild ducks, "but that will not matter if you do not want to marry one of our family."
 215. It does not matter.
 222. But what did he see in the clear stream below?
 236. He did not know what to do, he was so happy.

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Order of Auxiliaries

- Order of auxiliaries:
 1. Modal
 2. Perfect
 3. Progressive
 4. Passive
- The thief may have been being observed.

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Affix Hop

- The affix associated with a particular auxiliary does not appear on the auxiliary, but on the next verb. This process is called 'affix hop.'

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Affix Hop

- The thief may have been being observed.
 - *modal perfect prog. passive ed-participle*
- The thief
- The thief may
- The thief may have
- The thief may have been
- The thief may have been being
- The thief may have been being observed.

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Finite Verbs

- A complete sentence consists of a subject and a finite verb.
- A finite verb ...
 - Agrees with the subject (in the present tense)
 - Indicates present or past.
 - Has a subject in the nominative case.

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Non-finite Verbs

- The verb in a sentence fragment is non-finite.
- A non-finite verb ...
 - Does not agree with the subject
 - Does not indicate present or past.
 - Does not have a subject in the nominative case.

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Which Verbs are Finite?

2. The stork walking about on his long red legs chattered in the Egyptian language.
8. In this snug retreat sat a duck on her nest, watching for her young brood to hatch.
88. At last he ran away, frightening the little birds in the hedge as he flew over the palings.
5. It was, indeed, delightful to walk about in the country.

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These Verbs are Finite

2. The stork walking about on his long red legs chattered in the Egyptian language.
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Which Verbs are Non-Finite?

2. The stork walking about on his long red legs chattered in the Egyptian language.
8. In this snug retreat sat a duck on her nest, watching for her young brood to hatch.
88. So at last he ran away, frightening the little birds in the hedge as he flew over the palings.
5. It was, indeed, delightful to walk about in the country.

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These Verbs are Non-Finite

2. The stork walking about on his long red legs chattered in the Egyptian language.
8. In this snug retreat sat a duck on her nest, watching for her young brood to hatch.
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