

## Chapter 6: Verb Groups

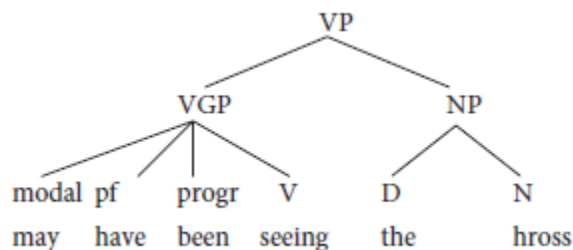
### I. Behavior of Verbs/Auxiliaries:

- 1- A verb can be preceded by up to 4 auxiliaries:
  - A) Modal: can, will... (You can study)
  - B) Perfect: have, has... (They have studied)
  - C) Progressing: is, are... (They are studying)
  - D) Passive: was, were... (He was given a book)
  - E) -Dummy-: do, did, is... (Did he study?)
- 2- A Verb is grouped with preceding auxiliaries and forms a Verb Group (VGP)
- 3- Auxiliaries invert in questions: Have you studied?
- 4- Auxiliaries can precede the negative n't (not): She hasn't studied yet.
- 5- Auxiliaries can be used in tag questions: She did not study, did she?
- 6- Auxiliaries can be used to emphasize (emphatic) action taken: She HAS actually studied.
- 7- Auxiliaries can express tense, mood, and aspect.
- 8- Auxiliaries do NOT head their own phrase.

### II. Representing Verb Groups:

- 1- Represented as a Flat tree structure:
- 2- Negative n't/not: represented as 'neg'

(7)



### III. Finiteness: one member of the verb group exhibits tense and subject/verb agreement (refer to affix hop):

- 1) Certain Verbs are non-finite, such as verbs after the infinitive 'to'

### IV. Five Auxiliary Types: (Modal – Perfect – Progressive – Passive)

- 1- Modals (Modal):
  - A) First to occur in VGP
  - B) Does not reflect agreement (No inflections)
  - C) Can attach to contracted forms (mustn't, can't...)
  - D) Modals express uncertainty (might, may...), necessity (must, should...), ability (can...), or permission (You can/may go...)

- E) Semi Modals: ought to, have to, dare to... (used to express things similar to modals and behave similarly...): Do I dare (verb) to eat? / Dare (semi-modal) I eat? – You didn't ought (verb) to study
  - F) Modals can be used in subjunctive mood (verbs expressing a condition which is doubtful or not factual): They insisted that he (should) go.
- 2- Prefect have (pf):
- A) Have follows the modal if there is one: She may have studied
- Affix Hop: affixes, such as –ed & -s, hop from auxiliary to the verb to the right – affixes appear on verb, not preceding auxiliaries: They have played
- 3- Progressive be (progr): He is (tense) studying (affix hop)
- 4- Passive be (pass):
- A) He is (tense) paid (affix hop) by me / I pay him
  - B) Samya may have been discussed / They may have discussed Samya
- 5- 'Dummy' do:
- A) Questions: Did she study? (She studied – Statement without auxiliary)
  - B) Negatives: They do not study (They study)
  - C) Got: They got knocked out (Got as a passive auxiliary)

**Table 6.2. Auxiliaries and their affixes**

Name of AUX	AUX	affix on the next verb	sentence	name of verb with affix
modal:	may, might, can, could, etc	–	He <b>may</b> go	infinitive
perfect:	have	-ed/-en	They <b>have</b> walked /seen/gone	past participle
progressive:	be	-ing	I <b>am</b> going	present participle
passive:	be	-ed/-en	They <b>are</b> loved/seen	past participle

- Working with Fragments:
  - 1) Mentioning the point about finite sentences yesterday – I was mentioning... (Add Subject & Finite)

**Table 6.3.** Some finite (in **bold**), lexical, and auxiliary verbs (underlined)

1.	[Those people <b>could</b> <u>have</u> <u>been</u> <u>goofing</u> off].	AUX	AUX	AUX	lexical
		modal	perfect	progressive	phrasal
2.	[He <b>has</b> <u>been</u> <u>wanting</u> [to <u>go</u> there for ages]].	AUX	AUX	lexical	lexical
		perfect	progressive	transitive	intransitive
3.	[I <b>mentioned</b> [that it <b>had</b> <u>been</u> <u>said</u> [that she <b>wished</b> [to <u>leave</u> ]]]].	lexical	AUX	AUX	lexical
		transitive	perfect	passive	transitive
					transitive intransitive
4.	[I <b>saw</b> [him <u>giving</u> her a present]].	lexical	lexical		
		transitive	ditransitive		
5.	[[ <u>Feeling</u> fine], he <b>left</b> early [to <u>put</u> dinner on the stove]].	lexical	lexical	lexical	
		copula	intransitive	complex transitive	

Special Topic:

Less formal forms of should have: shoulda / should of:

He shoulda studied VS He shoulda more money\*