

## Linguistic Principles of English Grammar, ENG 595G

### Study Questions #5

*Due in your first class meeting of week 7: Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, or Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.*

*Topic: Tense, Aspect and Modality.*

*Reading: Berk, Chapter 3: pp 130-145, plus three supplements, and other class handouts.*

1. For each of the sentences below, give the semantic tense and aspect. Please give the best answer for each category.

- |  |         |   |
|--|---------|---|
| a. He was standing at the gate.                    | Tense:  | Aspect:                                 |
| b. Slumbat loves Catherine.                        | Tense:  | Aspect:                                 |
| c. She used to read him ghost stories.             | Tense:  | Aspect:                                 |
| d. Melvin is coughing.                             | Tense:  | Aspect:                                 |
| e. Tomorrow I leave for Milwaukee.                 | Tense:  | Aspect:                                 |
| f. Williams has dedicated his life to linguistics. | Tense:  | Aspect:                                 |
| g. William walks to school,                        | Aspect: | h. but yesterday he took the bus.       |
| Tense:   |         | Tense: Aspect:                          |
| h. When I lived in Berkeley,                       | Aspect: | i. I would always order take-out pizza. |
| Tense:   |         | Tense: Aspect:                          |

2. Fill in each blank with a modal auxiliary that gives the sense indicated in parentheses. In the right column, indicate whether the use in each case is epistemic ('E') or deontic ('D'):

- |  | Epistemic or Deontic? |
|--|-----------------------|
| a. George _____ tie a square knot. (is able to)                      | -----                 |
| b. Sheila _____ have dessert if she wants to. (is allowed to)        | -----                 |
| c. The river _____ overflow its banks. (is possible)                 | -----                 |
| d. Matthew _____ swim when he was two. (was able to)                 | -----                 |
| e. Theodore _____ study Greek. (has an obligation to)                | -----                 |
| f. I _____ be glad if they were to visit us. (contingent on X)       | -----                 |
| g. He _____ practice the tuba, in spite of the neighbors. (I insist) | -----                 |
| h. It _____ rain this afternoon. (I predict)                         | -----                 |
| i. The green stuff _____ be guacamole. (I assume)                    | -----                 |
| j. The angles of a triangle _____ equal 180°. (assumption)           | -----                 |
| k. You _____ want to sit in on Dr. Endley's class (suggestion)       | -----                 |

3. Describe the probable meaning difference between the following two expressions. Please describe the situations, i.e., *give an example* of when it would be appropriate to use each one.

I'll pick you up at 8:00.

I'm going to pick you up at 8:00.

4. What are some ways of expressing modality other than the modal auxiliaries? List at least two other strategies, and give examples. Try to think of examples not given in the text.

5. Give a paraphrase of each of the following underlined expressions that employ phrasal verbs:

a. Emily tried and tried to get Martin to sell her his car. Finally, she just gave up.

b. Emily tried and tried to get Martin to sell her his car, and finally he gave in.

c. Basketball just tires me out.

d. The restaurant we usually go to on Sundays burned down yesterday.

e. The light bulb in the bathroom just burned out.

f. Eat up your spinach.

6. Complete the "box diagram" of the following excerpt from a conversation:

They must be having a party nextdoor.

I couldn't find a parking place.