

## Understanding English Grammar: A Linguistic Introduction

### *Additional Exercises for Chapter 12: Time and Reality*

#### 1. Tense and aspect

For each of the sentences below, give the *semantic* tense (temporal grounding) and *semantic* aspect. Remember that semantic tense and aspect are often distinct from the grammatical categories known as tense and aspect. Please give the *best* answer for each sentence. Possible answers are found in Figure 12.3 on p. 295 of the text. Please choose your answers from the *lowest* nodes on the chart in Figure 12.3.

- a. He was standing at the gate.
- b. The sailor loves a lass.
- c. She read him a ghost story.
- d. Melvin is coughing.
- e. Lucretia eats turnips for breakfast.
- f. Tomorrow I leave for Milwaukee.
- g. Williams has dedicated his life to linguistics.
- h. William walks to school.
- i. My father used to sell electrical equipment.
- j. We started eating about four o'clock.
- k. Suddenly the day turned stormy.

## 2. Mode and modality

For each of the sentences below, give the *modality*. Remember that modality is not the same as the traditional "moods" or "modes." Please give the *best* answer for each sentence. Possible answers are found in Figure 12.4 on p. 299 of the text. Please choose your answers from the *lowest* nodes on the chart in Figure 12.4.

- a. They have to give me a refund!
- b. They say electric rates are going to rise.
- c. Would that I were a rich man!
- d. He's definitely coming.
- e. She could always go back to the old system.
- f. I see you've changed your hairstyle.
- e. We should think about a new car.
- f. We're probably going to have to replace the carpets.
- g. If I were a rich man . . .
- h. It seems she's not going along with your suggestion.

### 3. Examples of tense, aspect and mode

Please give one example each of a lexical, morphological and analytic expression of temporal grounding, aspect and modality. For each example, please indicate which category of temporal grounding, aspect or modality is involved, using the terminology used in the text. Try to think of correct examples that have not been mentioned in class, in the reading or on this handout (Hint: In some cases, there are no examples available in English. Indicate this with a dash):

- a. Lexical expression of temporal grounding:
  
- b. Lexical expression of aspect:
  
- c. Lexical expression of modality:
  
- d. Morphological expression of temporal grounding:
  
- e. Morphological expression of aspect:
  
- f. Morphological expression of modality:
  
- g. Syntactic/analytic expression of temporal grounding:
  
- h. Syntactic/analytic expression of aspect:
  
- i. Syntactic/analytic expression of modality:

## 4. Tense and Aspect

For each of the sentences below, give the tense and the aspect. If there is more than one clause, give the tense and aspect of the main clause. Also, for each tense and aspect, indicate whether it is expressed lexically, morphologically, syntactically/analytically, a combination of these, or not at all (i.e. inferred). Some examples may be open to more than one interpretation. Please give the one *best* answer for each category.

a. What has it got in its pocketses?

Tense:	Expressed:
Aspect:	Expressed:

b. It won't say what it's got in its pocketses.

Tense:	Expressed:
Aspect:	Expressed:

c. He's found it, yes, he must have.

Tense:	Expressed:
Aspect:	Expressed:

d. His head was in a whirl of hope and wonder.

Tense:	Expressed:
Aspect:	Expressed:

e. The goblins will catch it then.

Tense:	Expressed:
Aspect:	Expressed:

## **Invent your own sentences**

Think of examples of the following kinds of sentences. Try to come up with examples that do not occur in the readings, or in this handout.

- a. A transitive clause expressing strong deontic modality.
- b. An inchoative clause in imperative mood.
- c. An inceptive clause in perfect aspect.
- d. A clause expressing a phasal aspect and future tense.
- e. A stative clause in the past tense.
- f. A completive clause in progressive aspect and future tense.
- g. A perfect aspect, present tense clause in interrogative mood.
- h. One clause in both progressive and perfect aspect.
- i. A clause in the past tense and inferential mode.
- j. A clause expressing weak deontic modality and future time reference.
- k. A clause expressing optative modality and past time reference.