Today

• Morphology of verbs, cont’d
  – Derivational vs. Inflectional

• Tense & Aspect
  – present vs. past
  – perfect vs. progressive
  – Semantic vs. syntactic tense/aspect

Reading: pp. 117-122
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Tense:** grammatical expression of time of event relative to time of utterance

Present
Past
**Morphology of Verbs**

*Inflectional* morphology

**Present Tense:** event *includes/overlaps* moment of speech

Josie *likes* sushi.

Time

**NOW**
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Past Tense:** specific event occurs *before* the moment of speech

Amala danced at the wedding.
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

### Past Tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affixation</th>
<th>Internal change</th>
<th>Suppletion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V + <em>ed</em> / <em>t</em></td>
<td>break ~ broke</td>
<td>go ~ went</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walk ~ walked</td>
<td>sink ~ sank</td>
<td>am ~ was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deal ~ dealt</td>
<td>steal ~ stole</td>
<td>is ~ were</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hold ~ held</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Aspect:** Information concerning the *duration* or *completion* of an event relative to a point of reference

- **Perfect Aspect**
  - Present perfect
  - Past perfect

- **Progressive Aspect**
  - Present progressive
  - Past progressive
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Perfect Aspect:** *Completion* relative to some point of reference

**Present Perfect:** Action that has just been completed at moment of speech

Pres. tense Aux *has/have* + Past participle (*-ed/-en/-t*)

...has lived...

...have fallen...

...has slept...
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Perfect Aspect:** *Completion* relative to some point of reference

**Present Perfect:** Action that has just been completed at moment of speech

*I hear that Scott has lived in Seattle for 20 years.*
Morphology of Verbs

Inflectional morphology

**Perfect Aspect**: **Completion** relative to some point of reference

**Past Perfect**: Action completed relative to past reference

Past tense Aux. *had* + Past participle (*-ed/-en/-t*)

...had lived...

...had fallen...

...had slept...
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Perfect Aspect:** Completion relative to some point of reference

**Past Perfect:** Action completed relative to past reference

Scott *had lived in Seattle for 20 yrs.* before he moved to Iowa.
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Progressive Aspect:** Duration of an action (‘ongoing’) relative to some point of reference

- Present Progressive
- Past Progressive
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Progressive Aspect**: *Duration* of an action (‘ongoing’) relative to some point of reference

**Present Progressive**: Action is ongoing now

Pres. Tense Aux *am/is/are* + Present participle (-*ing*)

...*am living*...

...*are falling*...

...*is sleeping*...
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Progressive Aspect:** *Duration* of an action (‘ongoing’) relative to some point of reference

**Present Progressive:** Action is ongoing now

Sue is writing her dissertation.

NOW
Morphology of Verbs

**Inflectional** morphology

**Progressive Aspect**: Duration of an action (‘ongoing’) relative to some point of reference

**Past Progressive**: Action was ongoing in the past (when it was interrupted)

Past tense Aux. *was/were* + Present participle (*-ing*)

... *was* living...
... *were* falling...
... *were* sleeping...
Morphology of Verbs

Inflectional morphology

**Progressive Aspect:** Duration of an action (‘ongoing’) relative to some point of reference

**Past Progressive:** Action was ongoing in the past (when it was interrupted)

Sue was writing her dissertation when she got writer’s block.
Tense and aspect?

S/he is reading a book. = Present progressive

S/he was reading a book. = Past progressive

S/he has written a book. = Present perfect

S/he had written a book. = Past perfect
Summary: Verb morphology

• New verbs can be created with derivational affixation, compounding, blending, clipping, conversion
• Inflectional morphology is used to indicate person, number, tense, aspect
• Tense indicates time of action, Perfect Aspect indicates completion of action, and Progressive Aspect indicates duration of action
Semantic/Syntactic
Tense and Aspect

Tense and Aspect are not always marked morphologically

Habitual Aspect
Future Tense
Semantic/Syntactic Tense and Aspect

**Habitual Aspect:** An event that recurs or continues indefinitely

I take the bus to work on Mondays and Fridays.
The neighbor’s dog wakes me up at 7 am every day.
Miles eats cereal each morning for breakfast.

Habitual aspect is NOT marked morphologically on the verb, but semantically.
Semantic/Syntactic Tense and Aspect

Future Tense

Typically marked *syntactically*, using modals *will/shall*.

The student attends lecture. (present)

The student *will/shall* attend lecture. (future)
Semantic/Syntactic Tense and Aspect

Future Tense

REMEMBER: Modals are NOT inflected for person/number, or tense/aspect

I / He will attend lecture.
The student *will attend lecture.
The student *shall attend lecture.
Semantic/Syntactic Tense and Aspect

Future Tense
Can also be marked *semantically*.

Carmen leaves at 7.
She *is* performing on Broadway next week.
Lucy said she *was* leaving tomorrow.
Semantic/Syntactic Tense and Aspect

NOTE: Unlike with auxiliaries, the main verb following a modal is NOT inflected…

The driver has crashed the car.
aux + past participle

The driver is crashing the car.
aux + pres. participle

*The driver might crashed/crashing the car.

… it is a bare infinitive
Semantic/Syntactic Tense and Aspect

Infinitives

• “Non-finite” verbs that lack tense (no past or present)
• May be ‘bare’ or preceded by to:
  She will leave. (= bare infinitive)
  She wants to leave. (= to-infinitive)
• Modals cannot be infinitives (*to can, *to may…)
Some squid were taking the bait.  
The orca will bite the seal.  
The whale has eaten the krill.  
A school of fish swam by.  
The whale will have eaten 3 tons of krill by the end of the day.
Summary: Semantic/Syntactic Tense and Aspect

• Habitual aspect is marked \textit{semantically} in Standard English

• Future tense is typically marked \textit{syntactically} (using modals will/shall)

• Modals do not inflect; they take the infinitive form of the main verb