# Contents

	page
Acknowledgements	iv
Key to Symbols	iv
Introduction	v
I Simple Present and Past Tenses	I
2 Progressive Aspect	14
3 The Expression of Past Time	30
4 The Expression of Future Time	51
5 The Modal Auxiliaries	66
6 Indirect Speech	99
7 Theoretical and Hypothetical Meaning	106
Guide to Further Reading	123
Index	127

## Index

References are to section numbers, NOT page numbers. A **bold face** number refers to the chief place where the topic in question is explained or discussed.

'activity verbs', 36C, 40, 42, 44, 78 adverbials in relation to tense and aspect, 68ff - associated with Past Tenses, 69 - associated with Present Perfect, 70 - associated with either Perfect or Past, 71-2 after, 74 already, 72 always, 64d, 71 am/is/are to, 144 American English (AE), 57a, 62b, 64e, 86a, 88b, 113Ac, 113Bb, 113Bf, 116Ba, 129b, 132b, 132c, 156 back-shift, 147ff be about to, III be going to, 86, **91**ff, 109, 110 -, 'future fulfilment of present', 91 -, 'future fulfilment of present intention', 92 -, 'future fulfilment of present cause', 93 -, 'imminent future', 93a, 95 -, in conditional sentences, 94 -, interchangeable with will/shall, 95 -, Past Tense of, 83, 96 -, Present Perfect Tense of, 96 be to + Infinitive. See: am/is/are to: was/ were to can, 114, 117ff -, with verbs of perception, 40, 114Aa —, 'ability', 114A -, 'permission', 114B, 119 —, 'possibility', **114**C, 120f, 138f -, 'strong recommendation', 114Ba —, tactful imperative, 114Bb -, negation of, 132

can't, 132

conditional sentences, 159ff could, Past Tense of can, 136f —, Past Tense in indirect speech, 151 —, hypothetical Past Tense, 170 —, 'polite permission', 173

-, 'tentative possibility', 175

—, 'tentative suggestion', 175a

definite and indefinite meaning, **64**, 73, 89*a* direct and indirect speech, 146ff

'eternal truths', 8

'event verbs', **12**, 54, 78, 135. See also 'momentary verbs', 'transitional event verbs'

ever, 62d, 71

factual and theoretical meaning, 120, 133, **155**ff

factual and theoretical possibility, 120f free indirect speech, 154

future in the past, 83f

future time, expression of, 86ff

-, and modal auxiliaries, 135

gerund, 158 go, 59b

(had) better, 145 have (got) to, **116**, 117ff

—, 'obligation', **116**A, 119

---, '(logical) necessity', **116**B, 120, 122, 139

-, in questions, 129, 129*c*, 131

-, negation of, 132

-, Past Tense of, 136

—, hypothetical form of, 169*a*, 170 *hitherto*, 71

#### 128 INDEX

(References are to section numbers, NOT page numbers)

hypothetical meaning, 155f, 163ff

- —, in dependent clauses, 164
- —, in main clauses, 165
- -, grammatical markers of, 166f
- -, semantic implications of, 168

imaginary time, past, 22, 66 —, present, 24ff —, future, 89b Indicative Mood, 156, 158 indirect speech, 146ff Infinitive construction, 158 inverseness, **118** 126

just, 71 just now, 71-

#### lately, latterly, 70

may, 113, 117ff -, 'permission by speaker', 113A, 119 -, in questions, II3Aa, I27 -, 'possibility', 113B, 120f, 138f -, 'benediction and malediction', 113C -, in if-clauses, 127f -, negation of, 132ff -, in indirect speech, 153 -, as 'subjunctive substitute', 158f mayn't, 113Bb, 132a might, Past Tense of may, 136f -, Past Tense in indirect speech, 151 -, as 'subjunctive substitute', 158f -, hypothetical Past Tense, 170 -, 'polite permission', 173 -, 'tentative possibility', 175 -, 'tentative suggestion', 175a modal auxiliaries, II2ff -, in questions, 127ff -, negation of, 132ff -, future use of, 135 -, Past Tense of, 136f -, with Perfect Aspect, 138f -, with Progressive Aspect, 139 - and indirect speech, 1 50ff -, hypothetical use of, 169ff

'momentary verbs', 35A

must, 115, 117ff

- -, 'obligation imposed by speaker', 115A, 119
- —, in questions, 115Aa, 127, 130, 131
- —, in *if*-clauses, 115Aa, 131b
- --, '(logical) necessity', **115**B, 120, 122, 139
- —, weakened to 'logical assumption', 115Ba
- —, negation of, 132ff
- —, in indirect speech, 152f

mustn't, 132ff

need (modal auxiliary), in questions, 129, 131 -, negation of, 132 -, compared with need to, 143 -, in indirect speech, 152 need to (full verb), 143 needn't, 132 negation, 'double', 132d -, external and internal, 132ff never, 62d, 71 next, 71 non-finite verb, 67 non-perfect, 4 non-progressive, 4 now, 72

once, 72 ought to, 140, **141** —, in indirect speech, 152f

past in future, 90
past participles, resultative use of, 59a
Past Perfect Tense, 4, 73f
—, in indirect speech, 147, 148c
—, with past hypothetical meaning, 166f
Past Perfect Progressive Tense, 4, 82
Past Progressive Tense, 4
—, tentative use of, 43a
—, referring to fairly recent communi-

cative happenings, 46a

(References are to section numbers, NOT page numbers)

—, referring to future in the past, 83 Past Tense, 4,

- —, in indirect speech, 147
- -, as marker of hypothetical meaning See also Simple Past Tense; Past Perfect Tense; Past Progressive Tense; Past Perfect Progressive Tense
- Perfect Aspect, 4, 53ff
- -, in non-finite constructions, 67
- —, with modal auxiliaries, 138f
- —, in hypothetical constructions, 166f, 171
  - See also Present Perfect Tense; Past Perfect Tense; Perfect Progressive; Past Perfect Progressive Tense
- Perfect Progressive, 75ff
- -, 'temporary situation leading up to present moment', 76
- -, rarity in passive of, 77b
- -, 'potential incompleteness of activity', 78
- -, 'effects of activity still apparent', 79
- -, summary of main meaning of, 80
- -, habitual use, 81
- point of orientation, 63, 73
- Present Perfect Tense, 4, 54ff
- —, with since, 7a
- -, 'state-up-to-the-present', 55
- -, 'indefinite past', 56, 63, 64
- -, 'recent indefinite past', 57
- -, 'habit-in-a-period-leading-up-tothe-present', 58
- -, 'resultative past', 59, 62
- -, indicating 'completeness', 59c
- -, compared with Simple Past, 60ff See also Present Perfect Progressive Tense
- Present Perfect Progressive Tense, 4, 75ff
- Present Progressive Tense, 4
- —, compared with Simple Present, 10, 11
- —, with future meaning, 86, **97**ff, 109, 110

-, compared with be going to, 98

- See also Present Perfect Progressive Tense; Progressive Aspect
- Present Tense, 4
  - See also Simple Present Tense; Present Progressive Tense; Present Perfect Tense
- 'process verbs', 36D, 41, 45, 78
- Progressive Aspect, 4, 27ff
- -, referring to temporary happenings, 28ff
- -, 'limited duration', 29f, 33
- -, 'actual' rather than 'potential', 30
- -, 'activity not necessarily complete', 31
- -, with 'temporal frame' effect, 32f
- -, classes of verb occurring with, 34ff
- -, classes of verb normally incompatible with, **37**ff, 55*a*, 77*c*, 100*b*
- -, apparent exceptions to incompatibility of certain verbs with, 39ff
- -, indicating tentativeness, 43
- -, habitual use of, 48ff
- -, referring to future or future in the past, 51, 97ff
- -, 'persistent or continuous activity', 52
- with modal auxiliaries, 139 proverbs, 8

real and unreal conditions, 159ff *recently*, 71

- shall, future use (prediction). See: will/ shall
- -, prophetic, 88a
- -, 'speaker's willingness', 124A
- -, 'speaker's insistence', 124B
- —, in commands, 124Ba
- -, 'speaker's intention', 124C
- -, in questions, 127
- —, negation of, 132ff
- -, in indirect speech, 153

shan't, 132ff

should, as Past Tense of shall, 136f

(References are to section numbers, NOT page numbers)

verb classes. See 'event verbs', 'state -, = 'ought to', **142**, 158d -, Past Tense in indirect speech, 151, verbs', 'activity verbs', 'momentary verbs', 'process verbs', 'verbs of ISIA inert perception', 'verbs of inert, -, expressing theoretical meaning, 158 -, in conditional clauses, 161, 166a cognition', 'verbs of having and Simple Past Tense, 4, 18ff, 53, 57a being', 'verbs of bodily sensation'. -, habitual, 19 'verbs of bodily sensation', 38H -, in relation to sequence, 20 'verbs of having and being', 37G, 44 -, hypothetical, 21, 166f 'verbs of inert cognition', 37F, 42 —, in narrative, 22 'verbs of inert perception', 37E, 40f -, in evasive reference to present, 23 -, compared with Present Perfect, 60ff was/were to, 144, 144d Simple Present Tense, 4, 6ff -, future in the past, 84 -, 'unrestrictive', 7f, 149 -, as marker of hypothetical meaning, -, 'instantaneous', 9ff, 13, 149 166f -, 'habitual', 13, 149 will, 123, 125f -, referring to future, 14, 86, IOIff —, 'willingness', 123A -, 'historic present', 15 -, in requests, 123Aa -, with verbs of communication, 16 —, 'insistence', 123B -, in reference to works of art, 17 -, 'intention', 123C -, in newspaper headlines, 17b -, 'predictability', hence 'characteristic -, imaginary uses, 24ff behaviour', 123D, 139 -, in fiction, 25 -, 'disposition', 123Dd -, in stage directions, 25a -, negation of, 132ff -, in travelogues and instructions, 26 See also: will/shall -, in conditional and temporal clauses, will/shall, future use ('prediction'), 86, 87ff, 109, 110, 124, 127 IOI since, 7a, 77d with Progressive Infinitive, 86, 105ff, so far, 70 109, 110 soon, 69 in conditional sentences, 89 - with Perfect Infinitive, 90 sports commentaries, 9 'state verbs', 12, 37G, 54, 55 won't, 132, 133a would, future in the past, 84 still, 72 Subjunctive Mood, 156, 158, 161 -, Past Tense of will, 136 -, 'predictability', hence 'characteristic suppressed condition, 165, 172ff behaviour', 136a that-clauses, 158 -, 'insistence', 136b then, 69 -, Past Tense in indirect speech, 151 to-day, to-night, 71 -, hypothetical meaning in main 'transitional event verbs', 35B clauses, 162 truth-neutrality and truth-commitment, -, hypothetical meaning in dependent 157f, 161, 164, 168 clauses, 166b -, hypothetical Past Tense of will, 170, unreal conditions, 162ff 1700

-, 'polite volition', 174

used to, 85

### INDEX I3I

(References are to section numbers, NOT page numbers)

See also: would/should would rather, would sooner, 165b would/should, as markers of hypothetical meaning, 166f

yesterday, 69 yet, 72