

Patterns for Selecting Verbal Groups

Simple Verbal Groups contain only one lexical verb + auxiliaries

<i>Tense</i>	Auxiliary + Lexical Verb						
Present Past	Nothing or –s suffix } + offer -ed suffix }						
Present Past	am, is, are } + offering, being offered, offered was, were }						
Present Past	have, has } + offered, been offering, been offered had }						
Present Past	do, does } + offer did }						
Present Past Present Past Present Past Present Past Present Past	<table style="border: none; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">shall } should }</td> <td rowspan="10" style="border: none; vertical-align: middle;">} + offer, be offering, be offered, have been offering, have been offered</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">will } would }</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">can } could }</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">may } might }</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">must }</td> </tr> </table>	shall } should }	} + offer, be offering, be offered, have been offering, have been offered	will } would }	can } could }	may } might }	must }
shall } should }	} + offer, be offering, be offered, have been offering, have been offered						
will } would }							
can } could }							
may } might }							
must }							

NOTES:

Simple Verbal group has only ONE lexical item that expresses the event [the thing in nominal groups.] Any other items in the group (auxiliary verbs) express choices from the point of view of tense (e.g., pastness needs to be interpreted more generally as “distance from the here and now or distance from reality). Future is expressed through modality (will---might).

In addition to the structural choices described in the chart above a number of others choices that can be expressed from the point of view of TENSE (Thompson 9.1.2 pg 185) both before and after the lexical verb. For now just note the kinds of patterns that are possible to include when determining a verbal group:

She [*had clearly been CRYing*]

He [*is about to* JUMP]
He [*has been going to*] ASK you.
He [*ought to have been*] LOOKing for them.
She [*would have liked to have* GOne.]
They [*were having to* FORCE-FEED] her
He [*was SENT*] to Spain as a manager
England [*had been* JOLTed.]

Complex Verbal Groups (complexities from a semantic perspective)

(Thompson 9.3 page 190)

NOTE: In the next group there are seemingly two lexical verbs but it is the second verb (IN CAPS) that is the lexical verb connected to the Subject. The first lexical verb is acting more like auxiliaries and modals than lexical verbs. Notice the first lexical verb is tensed and the second isn't just like an auxiliary or modal would do.

She [*tried to GIVE*] him a yell.
This [*tends to BE*] the mark of a literary style.
She [*began to SCREAM*].
We [*are going to have to* RETHINK] this.

Verbal group complexes (two groups that are coordinated or subordinated tend to shade over indistinctly into separate clauses in a clause complex, especially when there is project of some kind through a mental process expressed in a finite verb (pg. 191).

His eyes GLOWed and GLEAMed (coordinated group complex)
He loves to swim but hates to play soccer (coordinated group complex?)
She COMPLAINED
//that she should have GOTten the prize (two clauses or a group complex?)

Rule of thumb: If the second verb has a different Subject (as follows), then it fits with the clear cases of clause complexes involving projection where the process is a verbal one:

Clause Complex

He WANTED // (main clause
us to know (dependent clause with in-finite verb)
He ORDERED// (main clause)
them to fire (dependent clause with in-finite verb)
I DECIDED
that reading is fun (two clauses- one finite and one infinite group).

Verbal Group Complex

I WANTED to READ (wanted first, then read – group complex because same subject operates both)
I DECIDED to READ (decide first, then read second —count as a group complex because same subject operates both.