

Auxiliary verbs

Jong-Bok Kim
jongbokkim@gmail.com

Kyung Hee University

March 20, 2007

Main verbs vs. Aux

- main verbs
- auxiliary verbs
 1. modals (only finite forms, selecting for a VP[base])
 2. have/be (finite & nonfinite; selecting VP[pst.part], XP[+predicative])
 3. do (only finite, vacuous semantic meaning)
 4. to (only nonfinite, vacuous semantic meaning)

Criteria to distinguish Main and Aux: Negation

- Which words function as auxiliary verbs?: The distinction between main verbs and Aux with NICE properties
- Negation: Only auxiliary verbs can be followed by *not* as a sentential negation (have and be too)
 - (1)
 - a. Tom will not leave.
 - b. *Tom kicked not a ball.
 - (2)
 - a. Tom have not typed the homework.
 - b. Tom is not typing the homework.

Inversion

- Inversion: Only auxiliary verbs can undergo the subject-aux inversion
 - (3)
 - a. Will Tom leave the party now?
 - b. *Left Tom the party already?
 - (4)
 - a. Have Tom typed the homework?
 - b. Is Tom typing the homework?

Contraction

- Contraction: only auxiliary verbs can have contracted forms with the suffix *n't*
 - (5)
 - a. John couldn't leave the party.
 - b. *John leftn't the party early.
 - (6)
 - a. John haven't typed the homework.
 - b. John isn't typing the homework.

Ellipsis

- Ellipsis: The complement of an auxiliary verb, but not of a main verb can be elided
 - (7)
 - a. If anybody is spoiling the children, John is ___ .
 - b. *If anybody keeps spoiling the children, John keeps ___ .
 - (8)
 - a. I don't really want to go to the dentist's, but I know I should
 - b. I know I should go to the dentist's, but I just don't want to.
 - c. *I know John has kept telling me to go to the dentists, and Mary has kept, too.

Ordering restrictions

- So called Ordering Restrictions:
 - (9) The children will have been seen. The children would have been seen.
 The children have been being seen. The children had been being seen.
 The children will be being seen. The children would be being seen.
 The children will have been being seen. The children would have been being seen.
 - (10) *The children have will been seen. The children would have been seen.
 *The children have being been seen. The children had been being seen.

Modals

- no restriction on the types of the subject
 - (11) a. There might be a unicorn in the garden.
 - b. It will rain tomorrow.
 - c. John will leave the party earlier.
- only finite form
 - (12) a. *to would/*to can/*t canning
 - b. *John wants to can study syntax.

Modals

- no 3rd person inflection

(13) a. *John musts leave the party early.
b. *John wills leave the party early.

- takes a VP[base]

(14) a. John can dance/*danced/*dancing/*to dance.
b. John will dance/*danced/*dancing/*to dance.

Modals

- no iteration with a modal but possible with *have* or *be*.
 - (15)
 - a. *John can must swim.
 - b. *John must will swim.
 - (16)
 - a. John can have danced.
 - b. John can be dancing.

Have

- Functioning either as a main verb or an auxiliary verb

(17) a. *He doesn't be a student.

b. He $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{does not have} \\ \text{has not} \end{array} \right\}$ enough money.

be

- NICE properties

- (18) He is not happy.
Is he happy?
He isn't happy.
John is happy, but Mary isn't.

do

- Similarities with auxiliary verbs:

1. NICE

- (19)
- John didn't drink water.
 - In no other circumstances did John drink alcohol.
 - don't/haven't/can't/shouldn't,
 - John went to school, but Mary didn't __ .

2. infinitive clause

- (20)
- *They expected us to do leave him.
 - *They expected us to can leave him.

3. used as emphatic

- (21)
- He DOES drink alcohol.
 - He CAN drink alcohol.

do

- *do* appears neither before nor after any other auxiliary:

(22) a. He may be leaving.
b. He may have been eating
d. They will have come.

(23) a. *He does be leaving.
b. *He does have been eating.
c. *They will do come.

do

- no intrinsic meaning other than the emphatic meaning.
(24) a. *John does leave.
b. John DOES leave.
(25) a. John did not come.
b. John DID not come.

do

- Why the followings are ungrammatical?
 - (26) a. He might [have left].
b. *He might [do leave].
 - (27) a. John believed Kim to have left here.
b. *John believed Kim to do leave here.
 - (28) Pat did not go/*went/*goes/*gone/*going.
 - (29) a. *He do can leave here.
b. *He do may leave here.
 - (30) a. *Jim [DOES [have supported the theory]].
b. *The proposal [DID [be endorsed by Clinton]].
 - (31) a. *I [do [not [have sung]]].
b. *I [do [not [be happy]]].

simple vs. complex

- phrasal counterparts

(32)	<i>Modal</i>	<i>Phrasal Modal</i>
	can, could	be able to
	will, shall	be going to, be about to
	must	have to, have got to
	should, ought to	be to, be supposed to
	would	used to
	may, might	be allowed to, be permitted to

- (33) *I am used to go there.
*We can should study here.
*I am able to must do the job.
He will have to improve his work
He is going to have to improve his English

simple vs. complex

- other phrasal modals: had better, better, had best, would rather, would prefer, would like
- semi auxiliary verbs: need, dare, ought to, used to, etc

- (34)
- a. He need not leave the town.
 - b. He need not to leave the town
 - c. He needs not leave the town.
 - d. He needs not to leave the town

Meaning

- Obligation, permission, probability, futurity, uncertainty, lack of definiteness
- various meaning possibilities
 - (35) I will help you with the piano.
You will report to the quartermaster.
The lady on the left of the picture will be his mother.
- Two main types of meaning: Epistemic (logical probability) and Deontic (social interaction; obligation)
 - (36) You may leave the room. (permission)
It may rain tomorrow (probability)

Meaning

- Degree of certainty
 - (37) Someone's knocking:
 - That must be Sydney.
 - That should be Sydney.
 - That may be Sydney
 - That could/might be Sydney
 - (38) It is very certain that was Sydney.
 - It's fairly certain that was Sydney
 - It is probably/likely that was Sydney
 - It is quite possible that was Sydney
 - It is possible that was Sydney.

Social functions

- Making requests
 - (39) Will/would/can/could you help me with this math problem?
(request for a general nature)
May/might/can/could I leave the room now? (request for permission)
 - (40) Can I talk to you for a minute?
May I talk to you for a minute? (more formal)
 - (41) Would you mind turning down the volume on that radio?
Do you mind turning down the volume on that radio? (direct)
*Will you mind turning down the volume on that radio?

Social functions

- Making advice

(42) You have to/have got to/need to see a doctor.

You had better/best see a doctor.

You might/could see a doctor

(43) You had better/best not say things like that

ought not, shouldn't, not supposed to, don't have to/don't need to

More on the meaning

- Other meanings

(44) I can/be able to speak French. (ability)

This business can be reorganized (potentiality)

Sara would like to travel around the world (desire)

Would you like to something to drink ? (offer)

Brad would rather/would prefer to go to school instead of working (preference)

comparison

- can vs. be able to
 - (45) Structural differences
 - Will you be able to join us?
 - I've been able to knit for a long time
 - I'd like to be able to swim.
 - (46) Intention of the subject:
 - After waiting for an hour, I was finally able to see the doctor.
- shall
 - (47) Shall we dance?
Should we dance?

comparision

- will vs. is going to (more informal, interpersonal, and tied to imminent action)

(48) Help! I'm going to fall
Look, it's going to rain soon

- should, ought to, be supposed to

(49) should: express someone's internal moral judgement
ought to: a marker of some general external moral standard
be supposed to: explicit, externally agreed upon standards

comparison

- must, have to, have got to
 - (50) must: expressing inference (must have a wrong number)
have to: social necessity (have to wait until he gets back)
gotta: inference (You gotta be kidding)
social necessity: You've gotta lend me 10 dollars. I'm broke!
- used to/be used to/get used to
 - (51) I used to eat hot food when I was in Thailand
I got used to eating hot food when I was in Thailand
I am used to eating hot food

Exercises

- 15, 16, 18, 19, 20
- Read "English grammar that you must know" by pages 56. There will be a short quiz on next Tuesday.