

Session 6 Grammar: Verbs and Pronouns

10th May 2016

(1)

VERBS

WHAT IS A VERB?

A word or phrase that describes

- an action eg. run, jump, drive, stand, blink
- a state eg. like, understand, mean, promise
- an experience eg. feel, endure, taste,

It is the key word in a sentence that

- informs us what is happening
- can tell us something
- can ask a question
- can give an order
- can express a wish or a possibility.

Whatever it does, an English sentence is not complete without at least one.

WAYS TO LOOK AT A VERB

It can be:

- **transitive** – used with an object
eg. *need something, make something*
- **intransitive** – used without an object eg. *die, run*
- some can be **both**
eg. *move something/move, climb something/climb*

**BUT WON'T NECESSARILY
MATCH HOW THE VERB IS
IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE**

It can be:

- **modal** auxiliaries (helping) - *can, may, will, shall, could, might, would, should, and must*
- primary - *be, do, and have* (**main and auxiliaries**)
- **main**

**BUT WON'T NECESSARILY
MATCH HOW THE VERB IS
IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE**

WHAT ARE VERBS AFFECTED BY?

- **time** (now, then, in the future)
- **tense** (present perfect etc)
- **voice** (active/passive)
- **person** (first/second/third)
- **number** (singular/plural)
- **mood** (indicative/subjunctive)

As you can see: a single verb can be categorized in more than one way

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM WITH VERBS FOR YOU?

- choosing the right verb
- choosing the right verb form
- that the verb agrees with the subject
- The tense differences between your language and English

Usually affected by:

- time
- situation
- verb preceding/following
- prepositions
- questions
- negatives

TYPICAL PROBLEM AREAS

- FOR SWEDES

- **verb agreement**
- **the continuous/progressive and gerund (-ing form)**
- **use of 'do' in negatives and questions**
- **skall/skulle in English**
- **different verb tense use**

THE CONTINUOUS/PROGRESSIVE

When?

Swedish

Carina förklarar lite grammatik.

Repeated action, things that
usually/regularly happen
/something that's always true

English

Carina explains some grammar.

Carina is explaining some grammar.

Things are happening in the moment of
speech or now but not in the exact moment
of speech
/a fixed future date

THE CONTINUOUS/PROGRESSIVE

The continuous: Be+present participle (-ing)

1 the present continuous

'She **is studying car-engine mechanics.'**

2 the past continuous

'You **were sleeping, when I called you.'**

3 the present perfect continuous

'They **have been writing a report.'**

4 the past perfect continuous

'I **had been editing the script and **was loading** the homepage, when the server crashed.'**

THE CONTINUOUS/PROGRESSIVE

The 'ing' form (Avoid overuse!)

‘Something’s going on’

I am marking summaries.

He was taking notes frantically during the entire movie.

She is testing the equipment, while they prepare the samples.

Gradual change

Computer software is becoming better.

Personal attitude

She is always talking about grammar.

The simple form

Finished action

First I read the text....

Demonstration

...then you type the address.

Habits

He goes to church on Sundays.

Permanent states

Shareware is inexpensive.

Generic truths

WWW means 'while we wait'.

VERBS THAT REQUIRE THE GERUND

I avoid sleeping when I drive.

We enjoy developing an alternative maths course.

They firmly denied having cheated on each other.

GERUND – FURTHER USE OF '-ING'

after prepositions: used to, look forward to, after, complain about, interested in, aware of

We are looking forward to seeing you next week.

She is sure of making the exam.

certain verbs require '-ing':

avoid, deny, finish, quit, risk, mind

Would you mind having another go with the exercises?

certain verbs take infinitive form as well as the gerund

Marie remembered to send her e-message.

Marie remembered sending her e-message.

GERUND IN ENGLISH – SWEDISH 'ATT'

De är **intresserade av att få veta resultatet.**

They are interested in getting the results.

Han är **bra på att skriva texter.**

He is good at writing texts.

Många människor **gillar inte att bli avbrutna.**

Many people dislike being interrupted.

Vi **lyckades att hålla nere kostnaderna för det nya projektet.**

We succeeded in keeping project expenses down.

We managed to keep project expenses down.

'DO'

- Swedish
- Jag spelar fotboll.
- Spelar du fotboll?
- Jag spelar inte fotboll.
- Jag spelar ju tennis.
- Jag åkte till Irland.
- Åkte du till Irland?
- Jag åkte inte till Irland.
- Men Island åkte jag till.
- English
- I play football.
- Do you play football?
- I don't play football.
- I do play tennis.
- I went to Ireland.
- Did you go to Ireland?
- I didn't go to Ireland.
- But I did go to Island.

SKALL/SKULLE IN ENGLISH

Swedish ‘ska / skulle’ very rarely corresponds to English ‘shall / should’. Instead:

- **future tense — will, is going to**
- **planned events — present tense, be (scheduled) to**
- **intention — be going to, intend to, be supposed to**

SKALL/SKULLE IN ENGLISH

Some examples:

- Ni **ska** hålla er föredrag den 27 februari.
You **will** give your presentations on 27th February
- Jag **ska** sätta upp den här powerpointen på PingPong i kväll.
I **intend** to put up this powerpoint on PingPong this evening.
- Version etts deadline **ska sluta** 17.00 imorgon.
Version 1's deadline **ends** at 5pm tomorrow.
- Jag **ska** (kommer att) (ändå) uppdatera PingPong i kväll så...
I **will** be updating PingPong this evening anyway so...
- De **ska** precis åka hem.
They **are about to** go home.
- Ni **ska** inte lita på endast mig, använd Engonline också. You **should** not rely on only me, use Engonline too.

SKALL/SKULLE IN ENGLISH

- Shall we...
- **Skulle** det vara lustigt?
Is that supposed to be funny?
- Det **skulle inte vara dumt med...**
I wouldn't mind.../I could do with...

SWEDISH-ENGLISH DIFFERENT VERB TENSES

Professorn **föreläste/har föreslått** i 40 år.

The professor **lectured** for 40 years. (He's now retired)

The professor **has lectured** for 40 years. (He still lectures)

Jag **väntar** på dig utanför skolan.

I'll wait for you outside the school.

Jag tror det **regnar**.

I think **it's raining**.

Jag **kom** precis hem.

I've just **come** home.

Hon **har programmerat** i tre dagar.

She **has been programming** for three days.

'EAT' VERB FORMS - PRESENT

SITUATION	VERB FORM
Repeated action, things that usually/regularly happen	✓ I eat / he eats X I don't eat / he doesn't eat ? Do you eat? / does he eat?
PRESENT SIMPLE	
Things are happening right now or regularly, <u>& a fixed future date</u>	✓ I am eating / you are eating / he is eating X I'm not eating / you're not eating / he isn't eating ? Am I eating? / are you eating? / is he eating?
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	
When action happened sometime in the past (action important, not when)	✓ I have eaten / he has eaten X I haven't eaten / he hasn't eaten ? Have you eaten? / Has he eaten?
PRESENT PERFECT	
When there is a need to call attention to a repeated action not expected	✓ I have been eating / he has been eating X I haven't been eating / he hasn't been eating ? Have you been eating? / has he been eating?
PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS	

'EAT' VERB FORMS - PAST

SITUATION		VERB FORM
Something that happened, finished and the time is important, specific PAST SIMPLE	✓	I ate
	✗	I didn't eat?
	?	Did you eat?
Describe an action that got interrupted by something else PAST CONTINUOUS	✓	I was eating / you were eating
	✗	I wasn't eating / you weren't eating
	?	Was I eating? / were you eating?
When something happened before another PAST PERFECT	✓	I had eaten
	✗	I hadn't eaten
	?	Had you eaten?
Was in progress when something else happened and interrupted it, usually part of a longer story, more info expected PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS	✓	I had been eating
	✗	I hadn't been eating
	?	Had you been eating?

'EAT' VERB FORMS - FUTURE

SITUATION		VERB FORM
Do something for sure in future, promise	✓ x ?	I will eat I won't eat Will you eat?
WILL-FUTURE		
Announce plans	✓ x ?	I am going to eat / you are going to eat / he is going to eat I'm not going to eat / you're not going to eat / he isn't going to eat Are you going to eat? / isn't he going to eat?
GOING-TO-FUTURE		
About an activity that will happen before another	✓ x ?	I will have eaten I won't have eaten Will you have eaten?
FUTURE PERFECT		
About an activity that will be interrupted by another activity in the future, the interruption is important	✓ x ?	I will have been eating I won't have been eating Will you have been eating?
FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS		

PRONOUNS

PRONOUNS – ‘INSTEAD OF’ NOUNS

Personal (I, you, he, she, we, they etc)

It / there (Swedish 'det')

Reflexive (yourself, yourselves etc)

Possessive (my, mine etc)

Demonstrative (this, these, that, those etc)

Relative (who, whom, whose, which etc)

Interrogative (which?, what? etc)

Indefinite (some, any etc)

IT/THERE

Correspondence to Swedish 'det'

'It': **weather, time, distance, an already mentioned noun**

'There': **= 'det finns/förekommer/existerar'**

It is a mistake to believe that... / There is a mistake in the formula.

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

STUDENTS! PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR A SURPRISE.

Singular: -self; plural –selves

Ann had **herself** to blame.

They could only blame **themselves**.

NB! She shut the door behind **her**.

"her" is the objective form!

Reflexive in Swedish – non-reflexive in English

Imagine a nice sandwich while you **learn** grammar!

Who **cares** about **concentrating** while lost in dreams.

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

Problematic areas!

its / it's

their / there

Possessives are more frequent in Eng:

The car lost its wheel.

They changed their minds.

He put his hand in his pocket.

He put his hand in the pocket.

He put the hand in his pocket.

He put the hand in the pocket.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

Main issue: 'sound to paper'

this

these

that

those

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Lunch is a nice meal that most people like.

Alex, who studies engineering, is busy doing geometry.

Software engineering, which is an attractive area to work with, offers some interesting job options.

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Who:

genitive: whose; object form: whom

Alex, whose calculator has been stolen, enjoys geometry.

Alex, whom I have been talking about, is just an example.

NB! The building, whose roof was red, had to be painted.

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

Which?

What?

Who?

(Whom?)

Whose?

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

HAS ANYONE CONSIDERED CHECKING THE FAQ? MAYBE THAT COULD BE OF SOME HELP.

some / any; someone / anyone

An excavator is made up of **some** distinct parts, **any** parts would not do.

NB! Would you like **some** more training on advanced mathematics? (offer)

Would you like **any** more training on advanced mathematics? (genuine question)

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

- little / a little; few / a few
- Unfortunately, the engineer has little courage and few ideas.
- Luckily enough, the engineer has a little courage
- and a few ideas.

NO ONE (NOBODY) – NONE - NEITHER

No one (Nobody) has/have written the report yet.

None of us have/has seen the film.

I bought some books but none was/were very interesting.

I bought two books but neither was/were good.