

Classification of Verbs

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Classifications of English verbs

According to different principles of classification, classifications can be:

- morphological,
- lexical-morphological,
- syntactical
- functional.

Morphological classifications

1. According to their stem-types all verbs fall into:
 - simple (to play),
 - sound- replacive (food - to feed, blood - to bleed),
 - stress-replacive ('insult - to in'sult, 'record - to re'cord),
 - expanded - built with the help of suffixes and prefixes (oversleep, undergo),
 - composite - correspond to composite nouns (to blackmail),
 - phrasal (to have a smoke, to take a look).
1. According to the way of forming past tenses and Participle II verbs can be regular and irregular.

Lexical-morphological classification is based on the implicit grammatical meanings of the verb.

According to the implicit grammatical meaning of transitivity/intransitivity verbs fall into transitive and intransitive.

According to the implicit grammatical meaning of terminativeness/non-terminativeness verbs fall into terminative and durative. This classification is closely connected with the categories of aspect and temporal correlation.

According to the implicit grammatical meaning of stativeness/non-stativeness verbs fall into stative and dynamic.

Dynamic verbs include:

1. activity verbs: beg, call, drink;
2. process verbs: grow, widen, narrow;
3. verbs of bodily sensations: hurt, itch;
4. transitional event verbs: die, fall;
5. momentary: hit, kick, nod.

Stative verbs include:

1. verbs of inert perception and cognition: adore, hate, love;
2. relational verbs: consist, cost, have, owe.

Syntactic classifications

According to the nature of predication (primary and secondary) all verbs fall into finite and non-finite.

According to syntagmatic properties (valency) verbs can be of obligatory and optional valency, and thus they may have some directionality or be devoid of any directionality. In this way, verbs fall into the verbs of directed (to see, to take, etc.) and non-directed action (to arrive, to drizzle, etc.).

Functional classification

According to their functional significance verbs can be

1. notional (with the full lexical meaning),
2. semi-notional (modal verbs, link-verbs),
3. auxiliaries.

Auxiliaries are used in the strict order:

- modal,
- perfective,
- progressive,
- passive.