# CORSO DI LAUREA IN GIURISPRUDENZA

# Inglese Giuridico 2019-20

Lesson 4 – 07 April 2020

- Aspect – Mood – Voice – Conditional
- Forms of the Future

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# Aspect

Perfect

- We have finished the job.
- We had finished the job.
- We will have finished the job.

Function

- Action from a point in time which has an IMPACT on a subsequent time.

# Aspect

Progressive

- We are finishing the job.
- We were finishing the job.
- We have been finishing the job.
- We had been finishing the job.
- We will be finishing the job.

Function

- Describing a continuous BACKGROUND context accompanying a foreground event
- Describing a future event (Present Continuous)

# Mood

Indicative

- I recommend that he does this.
- I wish to know this.
- I wished to know that.


Function

- Stating facts, describing situations, expressing ideas (realis)

# Mood

Subjunctive

- I recommend that he do this.
- Let it be.

- I wish I knew that.
- I wish I had known that

Function
- Expressing an unreality (irrealis), a wish to change, the realisation of a possibility

# Mood

Imperative

- Stand up!
- Let's have lunch.

Function

- Order, request
    - Do this! Don't do that!
    - Give me a hand, please. Let me do it.
- Invitation, suggestion, recommendation, wish
    - Do come and visit us.
    - Let's try a different approach
    - Drive carefully!
    - Have a safe journey.

# Voice

Active

- They will finish the job tomorrow.
- Somebody acquired the company in a secret deal.
- The company published the report last year

Passive

- The job will be finished tomorrow.
- The company was acquired in a secret deal.
- The report was published last year.

Function

- To shift emphasis to original object
- To express a proposition when the original subject is unknown or irrelevant

# Conditional Forms (Present/Future)

If I have the money, I will go on holiday.
If I have the money, I go on holiday.

If I have received the money by then, I will go on holiday.

If you would wait, I would give you the money to go on holiday.

When I was a younger, if I had the money, I went on holiday

Function
- Non-hypothetical
- Presentation of a proposition in which the main clause is true if, and only if the If clause is true
- Verb times are determined by the intended meaning of the phrase

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# Conditional Forms (Present/Past)

If I had the money, I would/could/might go on holiday.

If I had had the money, I would/could/might have gone on holiday.

Function
- Hypothetical
- Referring either to the present/future or the past
- Not true now (present/future) or then (past)
- Logically possible (present/future) or impossible.
- Verb times are determined systematically

# Future Tense

Tense (in English) consists of only two options, as mentioned above: past and present. For lack of a special future tense, the language must resort to a number of different constructions to express future time,

*A Survey of Modern English, Pätzold K and Gramley S, Routledge, 2004*

# Expressing Future Time

"[T]he future tense has a different status from the other tenses. Rather than being a form of the verb, it is expressed by the modal auxiliary *will*. It's no accident that the future shares its syntax with words for necessity (*must*), possibility (*can, may, might*), and moral obligation (*should, ought to*), because what will happen is conceptually related to what must happen, what can happen, what should happen, and what we intend to happen. The word *will* itself is ambiguous between future tense and an expression of determination (as in *Sharks or no sharks, I will swim to Alcatraz*), and its homonyms show up in *free will, strong-willed*, and *to will something to happen*. The same ambiguity between the future and the intended can be found in another marker for the future tense, *going to* or *gonna*. It's as if the language is affirming the ethos that people have the power to make their own futures."

*The Stuff of Thought.', Pnker S, Viking, 2007*

# Ways to refer to Future time

Simple Present:

The sentence is expected tomorrow at 3.00 pm.

The court meets each month.

Function: a scheduled, often repeated event

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# Ways to refer to Future time

Be to/Be about to:

Twenty-five junior lawyers are to be promoted next week.

The law firm is about to make a major investment.

Function: realisation of a previous decision

# Ways to refer to Future time

Present Continuous:

We are introducing new software in the legal department.

The judge is arriving this afternoon.

Function: plans and arrangements

# Ways to refer to Future time

Going to/Planning to/Intending to/Expecting to:

A new court building is going to be built next year.

We are planning to modify the contract provisions

We are intending to add three new sections

We are expecting the other party to agree.

Function: a programmed objective that is likely to happen

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# Ways to refer to Future time

Can, Could:

The sentence can be custodial or pecuniary.

The jury could return a not guilty verdict.

Function: indication of level of probability of a future occurrence

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# Ways to refer to Future time

May, Might:

The judge may overrule he barrister.

The case might not be heard for some time.

Function: indication of level of probability of a future occurrence

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# Ways to refer to Future time

Must:

The defendant must be present at the hearing.

The jury must be approved by both the prosecution and the defence lawyers.

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Function: indication of level of probability (obligation) of a future occurrence

# Ways to refer to Future time

Shall, Should:

Shall we ask for court suspension?

We should consider the possibility of a custodial sentence.

Function: suggestions/recommendations for future action

# Ways to refer to Future time

Will:

Next year, I think the contract will be renewed.

I will sign the new contract tomorrow.

It will offer better conditions.

Will you let me know what you think?

If I can help, I will.

Function: predictions and promises about the future (probability); willingness

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