

UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

LINGUA INGLESE PARI A LIVELLO B2

Dipartimento di Ingegneria e
Architettura

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Lesson 3

- English morphology. Verbs
- English syntax, word order: multiple adjectives; collective nouns, if constructions, part I

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Any language on earth:

➤ Phonetics (sound) *house [h][a][u][z]*

➤ Morphology (word, roots) *lived < live + ed*

Grammar

➤ Syntax (word order in sentences):

The wolf killed the hunter / The hunter killed the wolf

➤ Semantics (meaning, sense):

bank (of the river, clouds, switches, money, etc.)

➤ Pragmatics (use):

➤ *thanks / any time, my pleasure*

Morphology

In linguistics, morphology studies words: their structure, **their parts**.

The following verb form in Italian:

Cominciassimo

Can be roughly analysed as:

Cominci + **ass** + **imo**

“Dissecting” the word

Cominc



root
meaning of word

+ iass



subjunctive = irreal

+ imo



who? = we

Italian verb and its complex morphology (1)

Indicativo

 Verbi Italiani	
verbo transitivo (ausiliare avere) e intransitivo (ausiliare essere) della I coniugazione coniugato nella forma attivo con gli ausiliari essere e avere	
INDICATIVO	
PRESENTE	PASSATO PROSSIMO
io comincio	io sono cominciato/a
tu cominci	tu sei cominciato/a
lui/lei comincia	lui/lei è cominciato/a
noi cominciamo	noi siamo cominciati/e
voi cominciate	voi siete cominciati/e
loro cominciano	loro sono cominciati/e
IMPERFETTO	TRAPASSATO PROSSIMO
io cominciavo	io ero cominciato/a
tu cominciavi	tu eri cominciato/a
lui/lei cominciava	lui/lei era cominciato/a
noi cominciavamo	noi eravamo cominciati/e
voi cominciavate	voi eravate cominciati/e
loro cominciavano	loro erano cominciati/e
PASSATO REMOTO	TRAPASSATO REMOTO
io cominciai	io fui cominciato/a
tu cominciasti	tu fosti cominciato/a
lui/lei cominciò	lui/lei fu cominciato/a
noi cominciammo	noi fummo cominciati/e
voi cominciaste	voi foste cominciati/e
loro cominciarono	loro furono cominciati/e
FUTURO SEMPLICE	FUTURO ANTERIORE
io comincerò	io sarò cominciato/a
tu comincerai	tu sarai cominciato/a
lui/lei comincerà	lui/lei sarà cominciato/a
noi cominceremo	noi saremo cominciati/e
voi comincerete	voi sarete cominciati/e
loro cominceranno	loro saranno cominciati/e

Italian verb and its complex morphology (2) Congiuntivo

CONGIUNTIVO	
PRESENTE	PASSATO
che io cominci	che io sia cominciato/a
che tu cominci	che tu sia cominciato/a
che lui/lei cominci	che lui/lei sia cominciato/a
che noi cominciamo	che noi siamo cominciati/e
che voi cominciate	che voi siate cominciati/e
che loro comincino	che loro siano cominciati/e
IMPERFETTO	TRAPASSATO
che io cominciassi	che io fossi cominciato/a
che tu cominciassi	che tu fossi cominciato/a
che lui/lei cominciasse	che lui/lei fosse cominciato/a
che noi cominciassimo	che noi fossimo cominciati/e
che voi cominciaste	che voi foste cominciati/e
che loro cominciassero	che loro fossero cominciati/e
CONDIZIONALE	
Presente	Passato
io comincerei	io sarei cominciato/a
tu cominceresti	tu saresti cominciato/a
lui/lei comincerebbe	lui/lei sarebbe cominciato/a
noi cominceremmo	noi saremmo cominciati/e
voi comincereste	voi sareste cominciati/e
loro comincerebbero	loro sarebbero cominciati/e
IMPERATIVO	INFINITO
PRESENTE	Presente: cominciare
—	Passato: avere cominciato/a/i/e
comincia	PARTICIPIO
cominci	Presente: cominciante
cominciamo	Passato: cominciato/a/i/e
cominciate	GERUNDIO
comincino	Presente: cominciando
	Passato: avendo cominciato/a/i/e

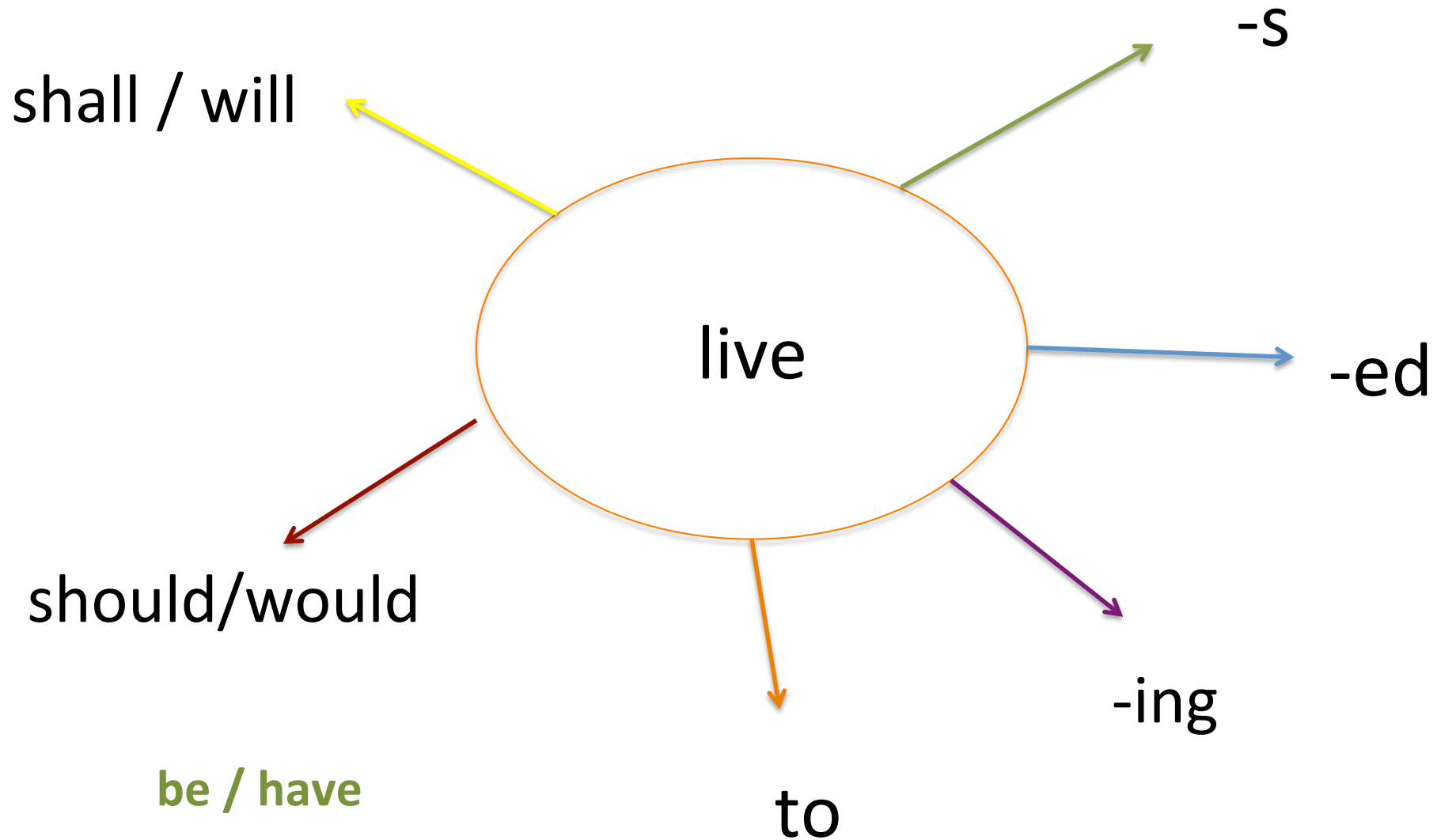
Se cominciassimo a studiare alle otto di sera, alle dieci avremmo già finito.

If we start__ to study at eight in the evening, we _____ finish __ by ten.
-ed to would be -ed

Se cominciamo a studiare alle otto di sera, alle dieci avremo già finito.

If we start study__ at eight in the evening, we will have finish__ by ten.
-ing will have -ed

English verb has a less complicated morphology



Many nouns function as verbs by adding “to”

to run

to go for a run

to chat

to have a chat

salt

to salt

pepper

to pepper

water

to water

text

to text

dental floss

to dental floss

shoehorn

to shoehorn

spoon

to spoon (1)

to spoon (2)

noun/verbs

- dental floss
- **to** dental floss



- water
- **to** water



- spoon
- **to** spoon (1)
- **to** spoon (2)





to shoehorn



to spoon fat off a broth

Adjectives in English (1)

Adjectives behave differently in English and Italian.

In English:

- They usually go **before** the noun.
- A noun can be preceded by **multiple** adjectives.

In order to speak, understand and write adjectives correctly we must remember **the order** in which they are placed inside the sentence.

Adjectives in English (2)

Some **adjectives** can be identified by their endings. Typical adjective endings include:

EX.

1. **-able/-ible** understandable, capable, readable, incredible
2. **-al** mathematical, functional, influential, chemical
3. **-ful** beautiful, bashful, helpful, harmful
4. **-ic** artistic, manic, rustic, terrific
5. **-ive** submissive, intuitive, inventive, attractive
6. **-less** sleeveless, hopeless, groundless, restless
7. **-ous** gorgeous, dangerous, adventurous, fabulous

-able

do
eat
drink
stop
bear
accept

doable
eatable
drinkable
stoppable
bearable
acceptable

-less

fear
tooth
hair
penny
care
finger
price
use

fearless
toothless
hairless
penniless
careless
fingerless
priceless
useless

Order of multiple adjectives

Quantity : *2, 100, etc.*

General opinion : *good, beautiful, stunning, etc.*

Size : *small, tall, big, etc.*

Age : *ten-year-old, prehistoric, etc.*

Shape : *oval, round, square, etc.*

Colour : *white, green, red, etc.*

Origin : *Chinese, German, Italian, etc.*

Material : *leather, wooden, satin, etc.*

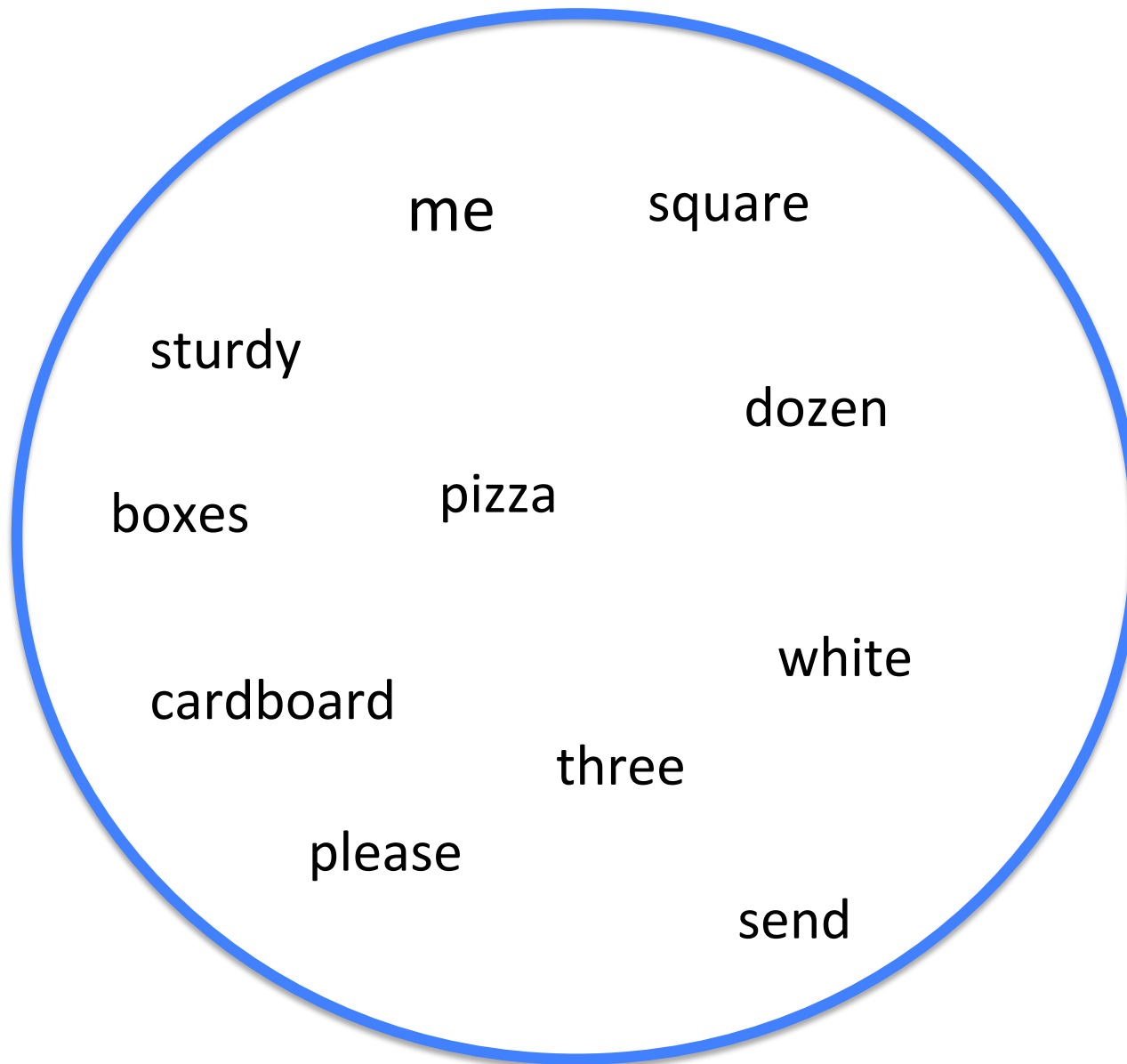
Purpose : *study table, coffee table, etc.*



1. quantity
2. opinion
3. size
4. age
5. shape
6. colour
7. origin
8. material
9. purpose

Exercise:

Arrange the adjectives within the circle according to the order provided to your right (solution at the end of presentation)



1. quantity
2. opinion
3. size
4. age
5. shape
6. colour
7. origin
8. material
9. purpose

Exercise:

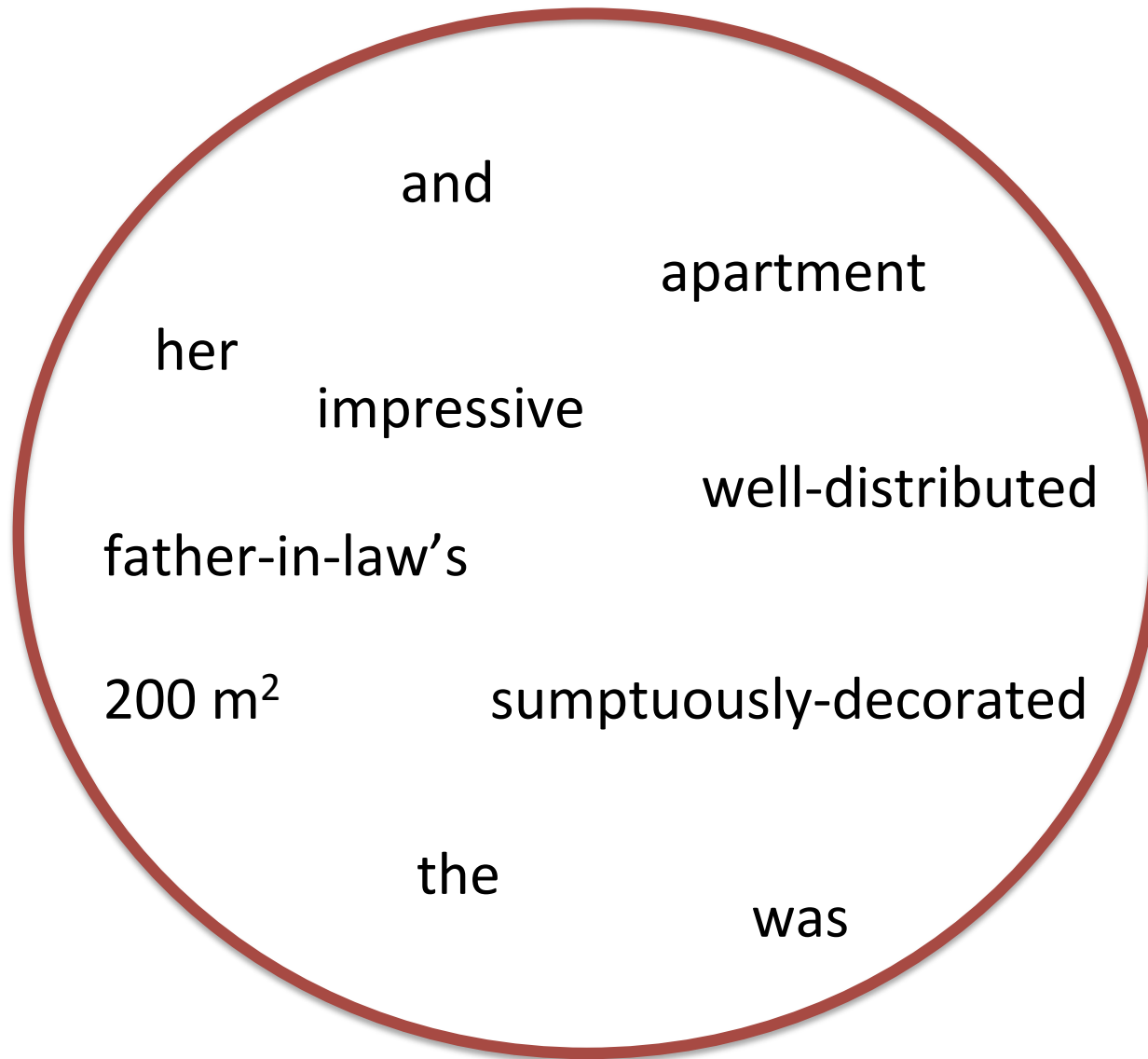
Arrange the adjectives within the circle according to the order provided to your right (solution at the end of presentation)



quantity
opinion
size
age
shape
colour
origin
material
purpose

Exercise:

Arrange the adjectives within the circle according to the order provided to your right
(solution at the end of presentation)



1. quantity
2. opinion
3. size
4. age
5. shape
6. colour
7. origin
8. material
9. purpose

Exercise:

Arrange the adjectives within the circle according to the order provided to your right (solution at the end of presentation)

Solutions to the multiple adjective exercise

- She was an interesting, tall, thin, middle-aged, black-haired Spanish lady.
- Please, send me three dozen, sturdy, square, white, cardboard pizza boxes.
- Panettone is a round, Italian, bread-like, Christmas cake.
- The impressive 200 m², well-distributed and sumptuously-decorated apartment was her father-in-law's.

Verb agreement

- Collective nouns + singular
 - herd (elephants, cows, deer,)
 - pack (wolves, dogs, foxes)
 - school (fish)
 - swarm (flies, bees, wasps)
 - flock (birds in general)
- If constructions

Examples

a **herd** (of elephants,
cows, deer)

mandria di elefanti

a **pack** (of wolves,
dogs, foxes)

branco di cani

a **school** (of fish)

banco di pesci

a **swarm** (of flies, bees,
wasps)

sciame, nugolo di
mosche

a **flock** (of birds in
general)

stormo di uccelli

Agreement: singular or plural?

- A herd of hungry and restless elephants _____ walking under the tree shadows.
- This swarm of flies _____ bothering the dinner guests with its incessant noise.

- A herd of hungry and restless elephants is walking under the tree shadows.
- A swarm of flies has been bothering the dinner guests with its incessant noise.

If constructions (I)

	If clause:	Main clause:
I : condition possible to fulfill	If + simple present <i>If I study,</i>	future <i>I will pass the test.</i>
II: condition in theory possible to fulfill	If + simple past <i>If I studied,</i>	would, could, might... + verb <i>I would pass the test</i>
III: condition not possible to fulfill (too late)	If + past perfect <i>If I had studied,</i>	would + have + past participle <i>I would have passed the test</i>

Phrasal verbs you should know

- <https://oxfordhousebcn.com/en/10-phrasal-verbs-you-should-learn-today/>
- go on
- pick up
- come up
- find out
- grow up
- go back