

UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

LINGUA INGLESE PARI A LIVELLO B2

Dipartimento di Ingegneria e
Architettura

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Lesson 3-4

Words and sentences

English and Italian verbs.
Word order, *if* questions, tag questions, contractions, phrasal verbs, direct and indirect questions, false friends.

Review

Any language on earth:

- Phonetics (sound) *house [h][a][u][z]*
- Morphology (word, roots) *lived < live + ed*
- 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:

Comincia + **ss** + **i** + **mo**

Verbi Italiani

COMINCIARE

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 cominció		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	

continua sotto

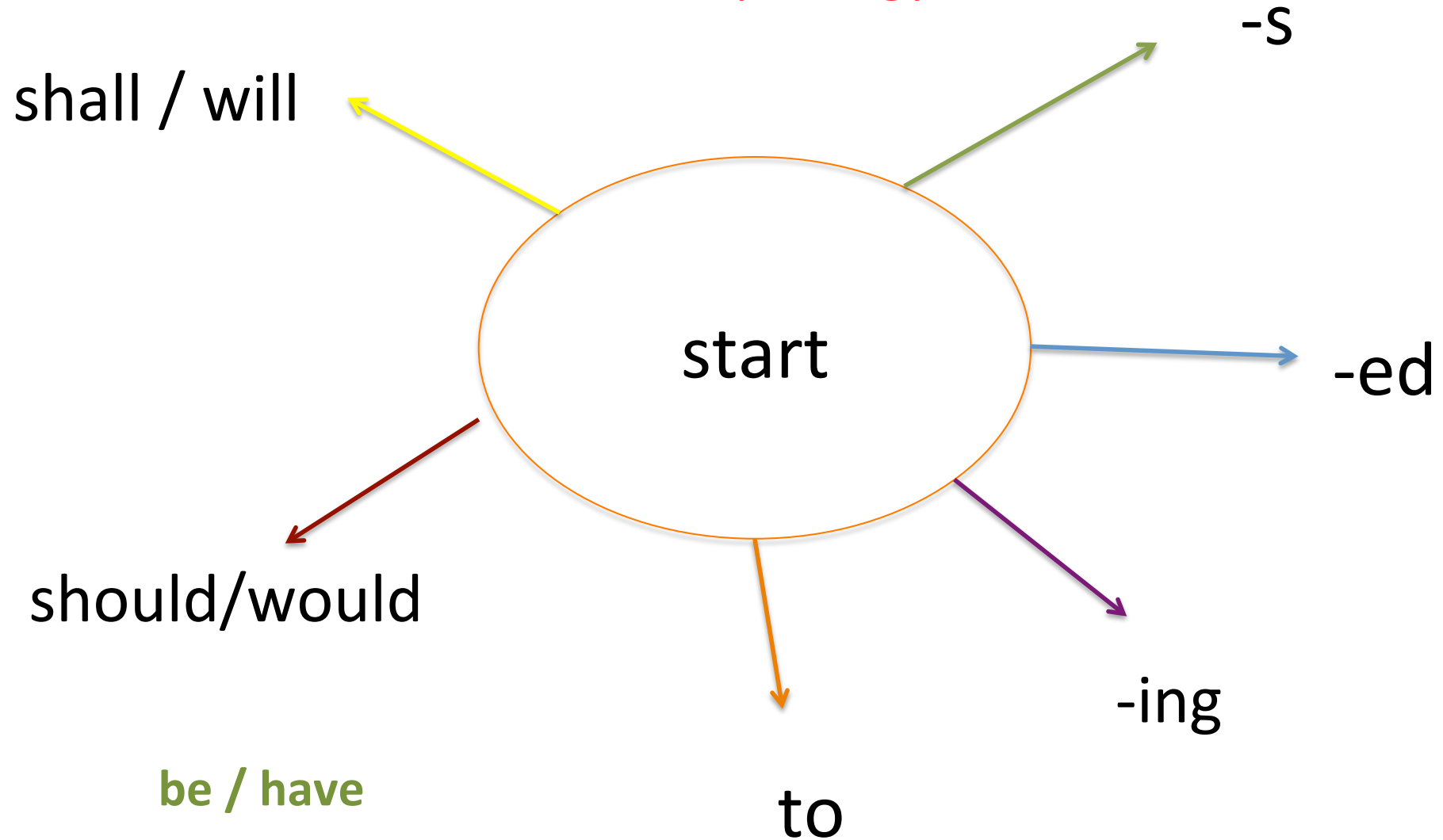
The Italian
verb and its
complex
morphology
(1)

Verbi Italiani

The Italian verb and its complex morphology (2)

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

The English verb has a less complicated morphology



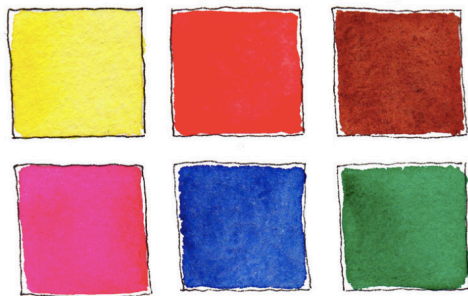
Painting a landscape with two different palettes



Trying to paint a landscape with two different palettes



Italian palette



English palette

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

butter

to butter

dental floss

to dental floss

shoehorn

to shoehorn

spoon

to spoon (1)

to spoon (2)

text

to text

mail / email

to email

Skype

to skype

noun/verbs

- dental floss
- **to** dental floss



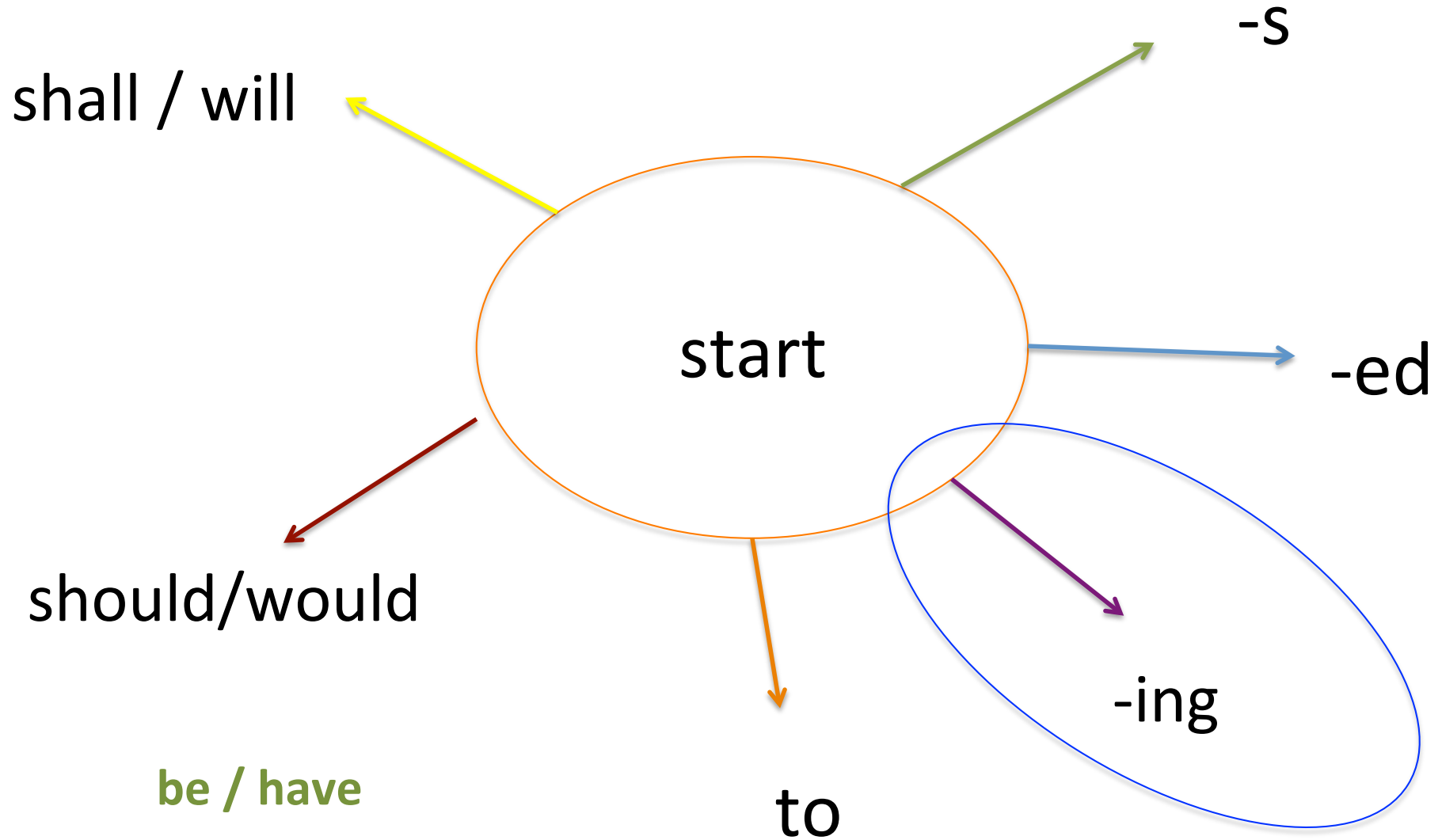
- water
- **to** water



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



Gerund: the English verbal noun



Gerund

Merriam Webster

gerund **noun**



ger·und | \ 'jer-ənd , 'je-rənd \

Definition of *gerund*

- 1 : a verbal noun in Latin that expresses generalized or uncompleted action
- 2 : any of several linguistic forms analogous to the Latin gerund in languages other than Latin

especially : the English verbal noun ending in *-ing* that has the function of a substantive and at the same time shows the verbal features of tense, voice, and capacity to take adverbial qualifiers and to govern (see GOVERN sense 4) objects

Graffiti

tagger :

graffitti artist,
graffitti writer

Italian: graffittaro

NO : **writer**

STOP ~~TO COPY~~... **NO**

STOP **COPYING**... **YES**



-ing forms (gerunds)

GERUNDS IN ENGLISH

Verb + Gerund	Verb + Preposition + Gerund	Be + Adjective + Preposition + Gerund
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• acknowledge• anticipate• appreciate• consider• defend• deny• detest• discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• adapt to• apologize for• approve of• ask about• believe in• blame for• care about• complain about	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• be accustomed to• be afraid of• be angry about• be ashamed of• be capable of• be certain about• be concerned with• be critical of

stop + V-ing

STOP ~~TO COPY~~ ...

stop

DOING that!

EATING junk food!

TALKING in class!

SEEING that person!

BUYING things you don't need!

LISTENING that lousy music!

DRINKING coffee in the mornings!

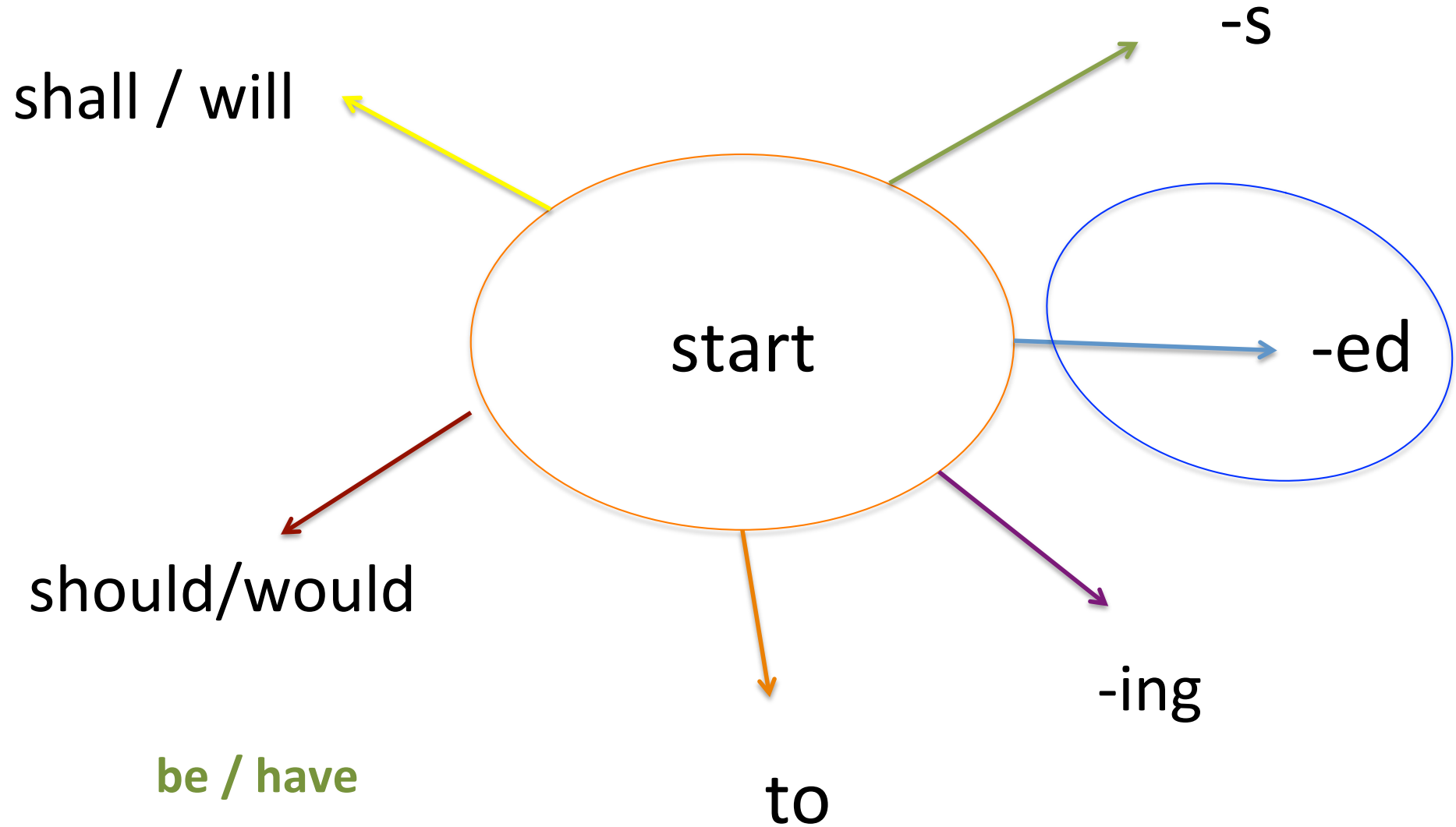
COPYING my style!

•

•

V - ing

-ed in regular verbs has different pronunciations



IRREGULAR VERBS:

be	was	been
have	had	had
go	went	gone
drink	drank	drunk
run	ran	run
buy	bought	bought
write	wrote	written
read	red	red
dream	dreamed	dreamed/ dreamt

.
. .
. .
. .

REGULAR VERBS + -ed

love	loved	
learn	learned	
call	called	/d/
close	closed	
walk	walked	
smash	smashed	
stop	stopped	[t]
laugh	laughed	
cook	cooked	
start	started	
add	added	[id]
wait	waited	
fold	folded	

Brushing up on verb agreement (1)

- I, you (sing and pl) we, they → study, go, eat
 - she, he, it (3rd person) → studies, goes, eats
 - IT ?
- **object**: This book (**has, have**) been quoted hundreds of times
- **animal**: That dog sure (**love loves**) a good walk.
- **concept**: The meaning of fashion (**change, changes**) a lot.

Verb agreement (2)

Collective nouns + singular

Persons:

family, group, committee, board, choir

Animals:

- herd (elephants, cows, deer)
- pack (wolves, dogs, foxes)
- school (fish)
- swarm (flies, bees, wasps)
- flock (birds in general)

Things:

bunch, pack, fleet, set.

Examples

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

mandria di elefanti

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

branco di cani

a **school** (of fish)

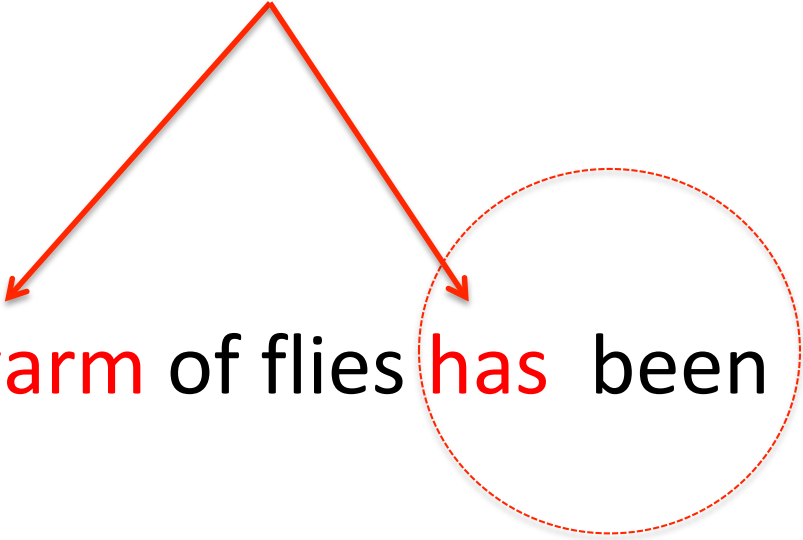
banco di pesci

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

sciame, nugolo di
mosche

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

stormo di uccelli

- 
- **A swarm** of flies **has** been bothering the dinner guests with its incessant noise.

Note: The singular in the example is represented by the third person of the verb 'have' i.e., **has**



Agreement: singular or plural?

- A herd of hungry and restless elephants (is), (was), (has been) walking under the trees.
- This swarm of flies _____ bothering the dinner guests with its incessant noise.

Syntax problems

If constructions

I: condition possible
to fulfill

If clause:

If + simple present
*If I study, If she
studies ...*

Main clause:

future
*I will pass the test. I 'll pass,
she 'll pass the test...*

II: condition **in theory**
possible to fulfill

If + simple past
If I studied,

would, could, might... + verb
I would pass the test.

III: condition **not**
possible to fulfill
(too late)

If + past perfect
If I had studied,

would + have + past participle
I would have passed the test

Tricky singular/plural variation Dozen, hundred, thousand, million

I can eat **two dozen** donuts (kilo) two kilos of xxxx

I' ve eaten **dozens** of donuts

I' ve lived in Paris **two hundred** days already

I' ve lived in Paris hundreds of days already

This file contains **three thousand** documents

This file contains **thousands of** documents

She had written **three million** words already

She had written **millions of** words already

What about kilo, pound, ton?

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)

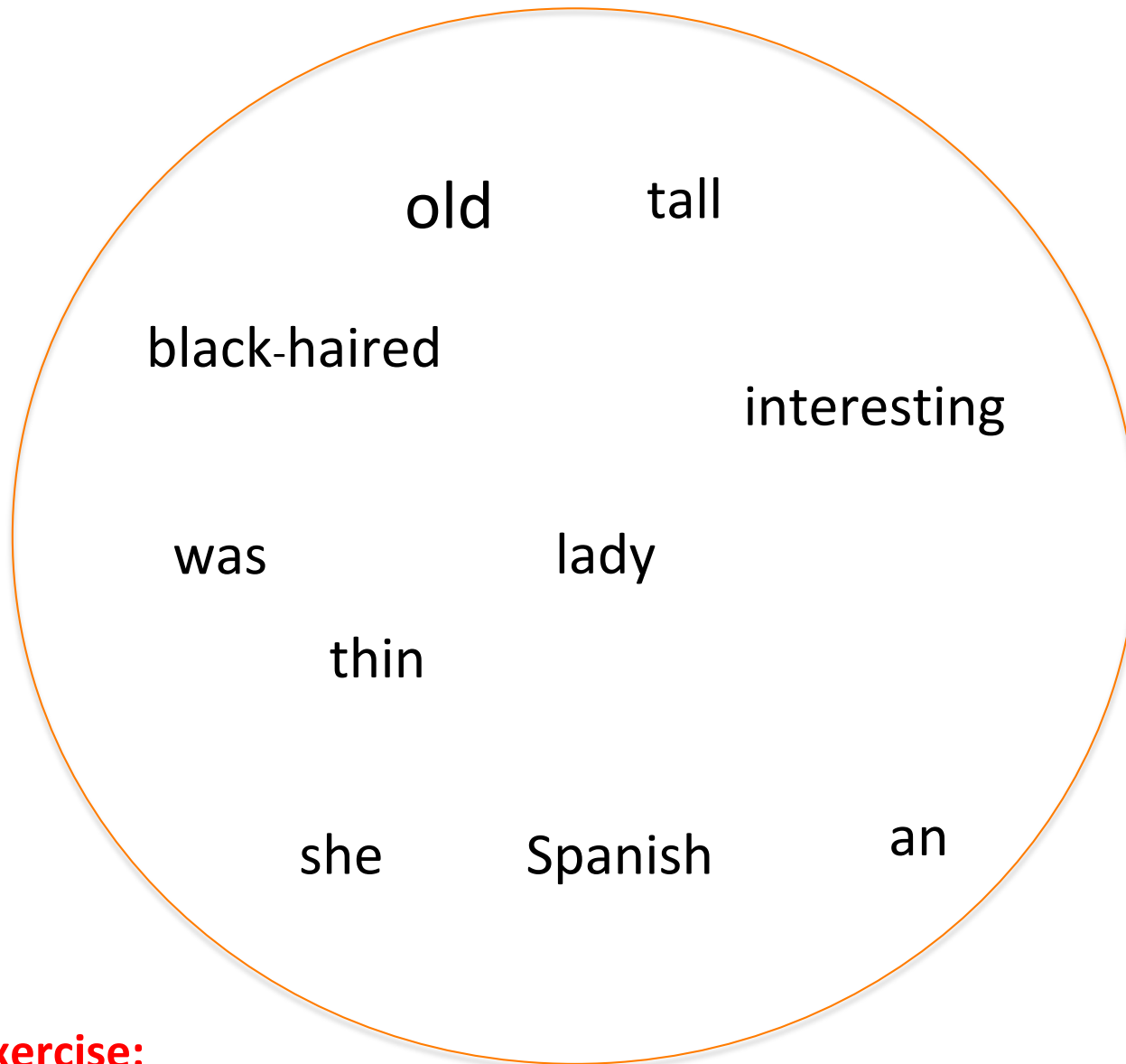
Some **adjectives** can be identified by their endings. Typical adjective endings include:

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

Order of multiple adjectives

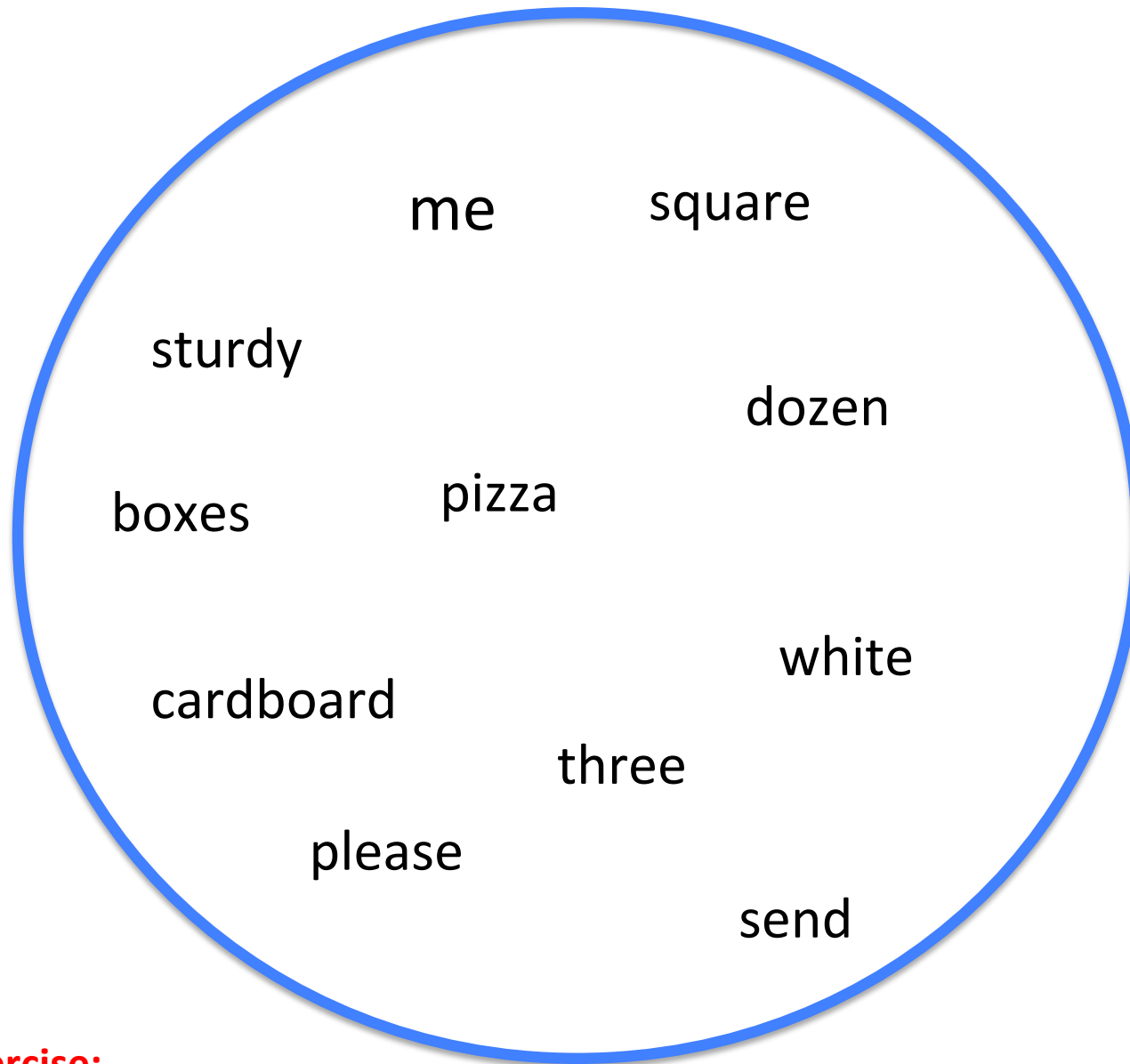
1. Quantity : *2, 100, etc.*
2. General opinion : *good, beautiful, stunning, etc.*
3. Size : *small, tall, big, etc.*
4. Age : *ten-year-old, prehistoric, etc.*
5. Shape : *oval, round, square, etc.*
6. Colour : *white, green, red, etc.*
7. Origin : *Chinese, German, Italian, etc.*
8. Material : *leather, wooden, satin, etc.*
9. 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:

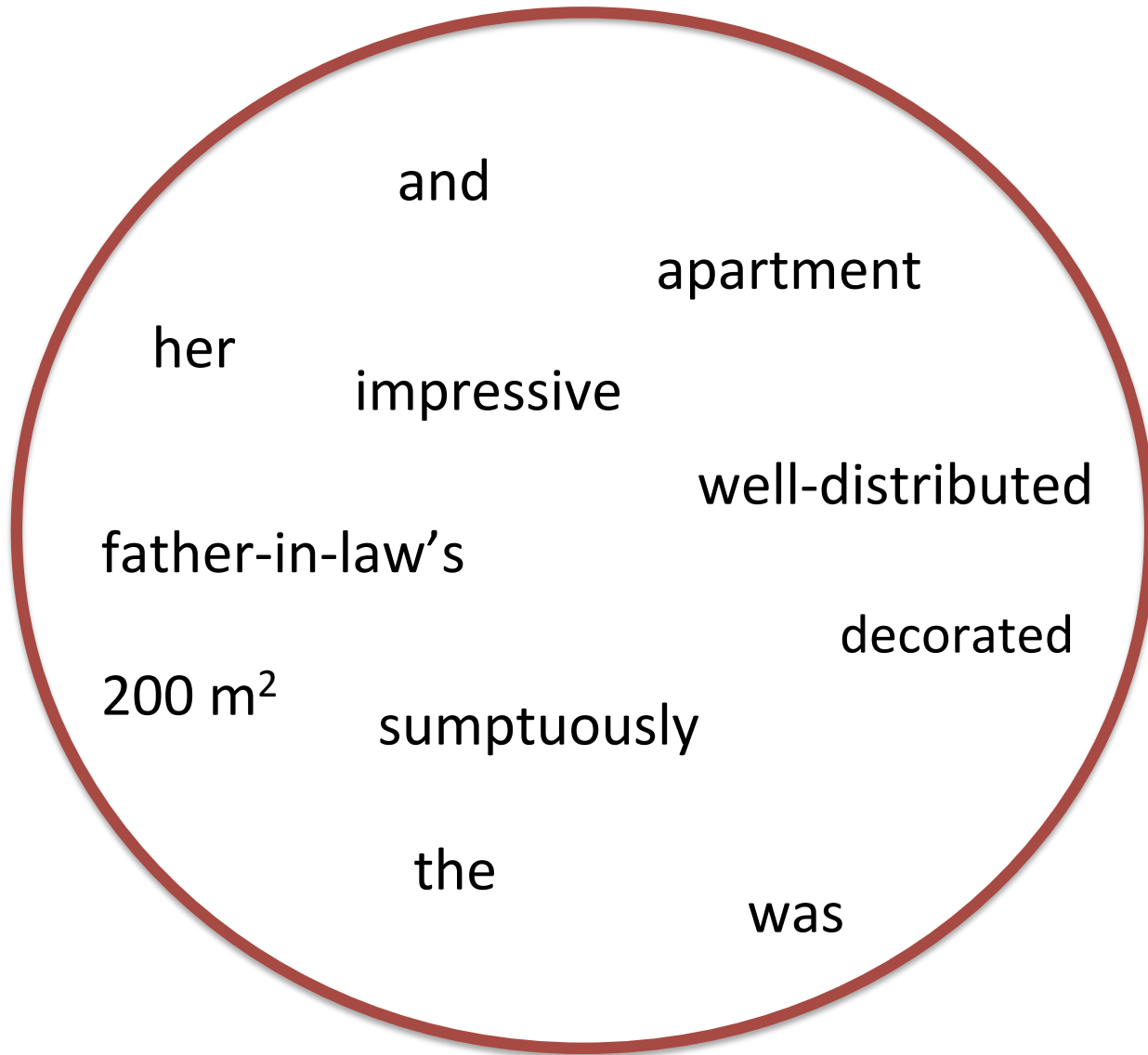
Arrange the adjectives within the circle according to the order provided to your right (solution at the end of presentation)



- 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, old, 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.

We shall have a coffee break, shan' t we?
We' ll have a coffee break, won' t we?
We should have a coffee break, shouldn' t we?



I shall not = I shan' t
I will not = I won' t
I should not = I shouldn' t
I would not = I wouldn' t
You are not = you aren' t
I shall, you will = I' ll, you' ll

**LIST OF
CONTRACTIONS
IN ENGLISH**

aren't - are not
can't - cannot
couldn't - could not
didn't - did not
doesn't - does not
don't - do not
hadn't - had not
hasn't - has not
haven't - have not
he'd - he had
he'd - he would
he'll - he will
he'll - he shall
he's - he is
he's - he has
I'd - I had
I'd - I would
I'll - I will
I'll - I shall
I'm - I am
I've - I have



isn't - is not
let's - let us
mightn't - might not
mustn't - must not
shan't - shall not
she'd - she had
she'd - she would
she'll - she will
she'll - she shall
she's - she is
she's - she has
shouldn't - should not
that's - that is
that's - that has
there's - there is
there's - there has
they'd - they had
they'd - they would
they'll - they will
they'll - they shall
they're - they are
they've - they have
we'd - we had
we'd - we would
we're - we are
we've - we have
weren't - were not

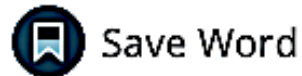
what'll - what will
What'll - what shall
what're - what are
what's - what is
what's - what has
what've - what have
where's - where is
where's - where has
who'd - who had
who'd - who would
who'll - who will
who'll - who shall
who're - who are
who's - who is
who's - who has
who've - who have
won't - will not
wouldn't - would not
you'd - you had
you'd - you would
you'll - you will
you'll - you shall
you're - you are
you've - you have



Tag questions

(Merriam Webster)

tag question noun



Definition of *tag question*

: a question (such as *isn't it* in "it's fine, isn't it?") added to a statement or command (as to gain the assent of or challenge the person addressed)

also : a sentence ending in a tag question

Examples of *tag question* in a Sentence

Recent Examples on the Web

// There's something lovely about how the Brits end their sentences with *tag questions*, isn't there?

— CBS News, "America and England, separated by a common language," 13 May 2018

RULE

First sentence

Tag question

Affirmative



Negative

Negative



Affirmative

Be forms

Be form

Have forms

Have form

Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary form

Modal verbs

Modal form

Other verbs

Do verb

A link to every possible QT:

https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:English_tag_questions#

Exercise

1. She is from a small town in Jersey, isn't she?
2. They aren't on their way already, are they?
3. You don't like spicy food, do you?
4. David and Julie don't take Chinese classes, do they?
5. They need some new clothes, don't they?
6. You aren't from Brazil, _____?
7. The weather is really bad today, _____?
8. I'm not the person with the tickets, _____?
9. I like chocolate very much, don't I?
10. I often come home late, don't I?
11. It was windy yesterday, wasn't it?
12. She'll come at six, won't she?
13. He should pay his bills on time, shouldn't he?
14. The baby ate all his vegetables, _____
15. You shouldn't buy more clothes, _____
16. Peter would go with me to the concert, _____

Phrasal verbs

- Phrasal verb = verb + preposition:
- Examples:
 - go + on = go on
 - come + on = come on
 - shut + up = shut up
 - get + up = get up
 - get + off = get off

Common prepositions

about	above	after
of	off	onto
out	over	plus
since	throughout	towards
under	until	upon

Question: do you know the difference between **of** and **off**?

Phrasal verbs

Why are phrasal verbs so frustrating? It's like they've been sent from the devil to destroy the morale of English language students everywhere. I mean, how can changing one little preposition or adverb affect the meaning of a verb so drastically?

No matter how much we hate them, they are important. According to two leading linguists learners will encounter, on average, one phrasal verb in every 150 words of English they are exposed to. That's a lot!

They are also essential **if you want to be fluent and sound native like**. But with thousands of phrasal verbs out there, many with multiple meanings, it's virtually impossible to remember them all.

Therefore you need to come up with ways of learning them. One common strategy is to categorise them by verb.

Categorise by verb: take

Definition of *take* (Entry 1 of 2)

transitive verb

- 1** : to get into one's hands or into one's possession, power, or control: such as
 - a** : to seize or capture physically
// took them as prisoners
 - b** : to get possession of (fish or game) by killing or capturing
 - c** **(1)** : to move against (an opponent's piece, as in chess) and remove from play
(2) : to win in a card game
// able to take 12 tricks
 - d** : to acquire by eminent domain

Categorise by verb

Take:

- **take** something **up** (to start doing a new activity)
- **take** something **back** (to return something to a shop)
- **take** something **off** (to remove an item of clothing)

However, this can get confusing and you'll often remember the verb but not the preposition which is not ideal.

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
- get off

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrXt9yrZryg>

Phrasal verbs in context

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/nov/12/stan-lee-obituary>

Stan Lee obituary

The co-creator of Marvel Comics superheroes including Spider-Man and the X-Men who took them on to TV and film success

● **Share your tributes and memories**



Phrasal verbs in context

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/nov/12/stan-lee-obituary>

The comic book writer Stan Lee, who has died aged 95, revolutionised his industry in the 1960s, when he created the mythic figures that are still inspiring new generations to flock to the cinema. Lee's creations - Spider-Man, the X-Men, the Fantastic Four, most of the Avengers (Hulk, Iron Man, Thor), Daredevil and Doctor Strange - helped to rescue the costumed superhero from obscurity and to usher in the silver age of American comic books.

Superhero comics had collapsed in popularity after the second world war - their golden age - and the introduction of the comics code in 1954 had outlawed crime and horror comics with any real bite. Lee, then an editor with Martin Goodman's Atlas Comics, watched the industry folding up around him but kept Atlas going with a small staff and the tales of the romantic adventuress Millie the Model and wild west gunslinger Kid Colt.

He grew tired of churning out dozens of semi-literate scripts each month, however. When he was on the point of quitting, his wife, Joan, suggested: "Before you do, why don't you do one book the way you would like to do it? The worst that happens is Martin will fire you, and so what? You want to quit anyway."

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Phrasal verbs in songs.

Examples:

**Get up, stand up,
stand up for, give up,
come on**



Get up, stand up
Stand up for your right
Get up, stand up
Stand up for your right
Get up, stand up
Stand up for your right
Get up, stand up
Don't give up the fight

Preacher man don't tell me
Heaven is under the earth
I know you don't know
What life is really worth

He said all that glitters is gold
Half that story ain't never been told
So now you see the light, hey
You stand up for your right
Come on

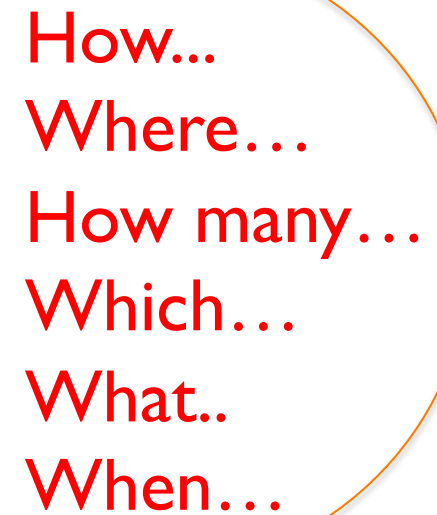
More Syntax issues:

Direct Questions

1. **Where** can I buy a ticket for the evening show?
2. **What** time is it in the United Arab Emirates?
3. **Where** can I buy interesting illustrated books for my children?
4. **Where** is the new science museum for children?
5. **How far** is the station from my new neighborhood?
6. **When** does the new train for London leave?
7. **Why** were Tom and Andrea late for the meeting yesterday?
8. **How long** will it take to travel from Los Angeles to Washington?
9. **When** does the sales presentation for the new product start?
10. **When** does the meeting for the new members in the team start?
11. **How** much will the flight to Edinburgh cost?

Indirect Questions

Do you know ----->
Could you tell me ----->
Do you happen to know ----->



How...
Where...
How many...
Which...
What..
When...

- Where can I buy a ticket for the evening show? (direct style, with people you know).
- *Do you know where ~~can I~~ buy a ticket for the evening show? (WRONG!!!)
- Do you know where I can buy a ticket for the evening show? (in the street, with people you don't know)

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/indirect-questions.html>



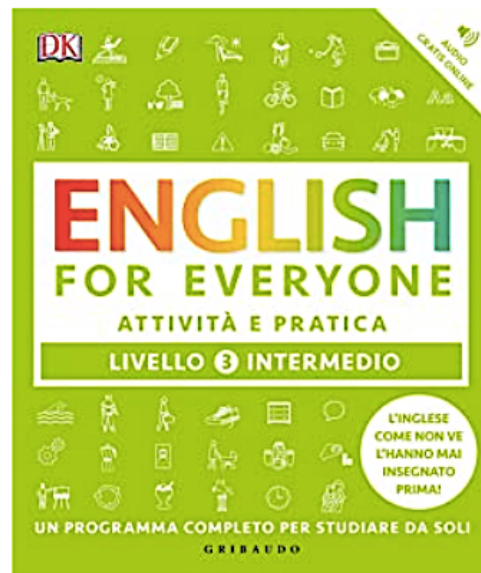
EXERCISE

Rewrite the following questions using indirect questions **correctly**.

1. Do you know where can I buy a ticket for the evening show?
2. Could you tell me what time is it in the United Arab Emirates?
3. Do you know where can I buy interesting illustrated books for my children?
4. Do you know where is the new science museum for children?
5. Could you tell me how far is the station from my new neighborhood?
6. Could you tell me when leaves the new train for London?
7. Do you know why were Tom and Andrea late for the meeting yesterday?
8. Do you know how long will it take to travel from Los Angeles to Washington?
9. Do you know when starts the sales presentation for the new product?
10. Could you tell me When starts the meeting for the new members in the team?
11. Could you tell me how much will the flight to Edinburgh cost?

Exercises here:

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/indirect-questions.html>



Barbara Mackay, Tim Bowen,
et al.

AUDIO GRATIS ON LINE:

www.dkefe.com

A bit of semantics: False friends

For historical reasons, a great amount of English vocabulary (29 %) has its origin in Old French. Since French and Italian have a common ancestor namely Latin, many words in English and Italian (and other Romance Languages as well) are similar **in their form**, but differ in meaning. These words are called in linguistics “faux-amies” or “false friends” because we may think —at first— that we know their meaning, but, in fact, we don't. We may go into a considerable amount of confusion by assigning them the wrong meaning.

A very interesting case is the word “eventually” in English. We tend naturally to associate it with the word “eventualmente” in Italian. But both meanings are completely different and we must be aware of it.

Example:

(1) The patient in room 12A is in critical conditions, but according to the medical board, **he will eventually recover.**

If you were proposed the following options as an interpretation of (1), which one would you choose?

a) The patient in room 12A is going to recover.

b) The patient in room 12A may or may not recover.

To solve the riddle we have to remember that:

“**eventually**” in English talks about a future certainty.

on the contrary,


“**eventualmente**” in Italian, talks about a future possibility.



1) Read the following article and get a good glimpse of the false friends situation.

<http://www.lifemilan.it/en/false-friends-a-must-learn-list/>

2) From the long list provided in the article, extract the ones you use frequently. Make sure that you understand their meaning in English and, above all, that you can confidently use them in a conversation.



English	Real meaning	False friend in Italian	Translation
abstemious	frugale	astemio	teetotal
accident	incidente	accidenti!, accidente	damn!, shock
actual	effettivo	attuale	present, current
actually	in realtà, effettivamente	attualmente	currently, now, at this moment
addiction	dipendenza, assuefazione	addizione	sum
to advertise	pubblicizzare	avvertire	to warn
advice	consiglio	avviso	warning
affluent	ricco	affluente	tributary, lake
to annoy	infastidire, seccare	annoiare	to bore
argument	discussione, litigio	argomento	topic, subject
to arrange	disporre	arrangiare	to fix up
ass	asino, sciocco, sedere	asso	ace
to assist	aiutare	assistere	attend, witness
to attack	assalire	attaccare	stick, fasten

	scholar	studioso	scolaro	pupil
	sensible	sensato, percepibile, ragionevole	sensibile	sensitive
	slip	sottoveste	slip	briefs, knickers
	spot	foruncolo, puntino	spot	advert, commercial
	stamp	francobollo	stampa	press
	suggestive	allusivo	suggestivo	evocative
	sympathetic	compassionevole	simpatico	likeable
	taste	sapore,	tasto	key, button
	toast	pane tostato, brindisi	toast	toasted sandwich
	trivial	banale	triviale	vulgar
	ultimate	fondamentale	ultimo	last
	vacancy	vuoto, posto vacante	vacanza	holiday, vacation
	verse	strofa	verso	line