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Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

adapted from *A Reference Grammar. Grammatica inglese della comunicazione,*

*(A Communicative (Reference?) Grammar of English?/the English Language?)*

by [G. De Devitiis](http://www.amazon.it/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1?ie=utf8&field-author=guido+de+devitiis&search-alias=stripbooks), [L. Mariani](http://www.amazon.it/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_2?ie=utf8&field-author=luciano+mariani&search-alias=stripbooks), [K. O'Malley](http://www.amazon.it/s/ref=dp_byline_sr_book_3?ie=utf8&field-author=kiaran+o%2527malley&search-alias=stripbooks) (Zanichelli: Bologna, 1993, pp. 97-98).

Real Time and Grammatical Tenses

Grammatical Tense and Aspect

In English the verb is put in relation to/with **real time** by means of **grammatical tenses**

The English verb correlated/connected with through (the use of)/(via)

and various auxiliary and modal verbs used to indicate (the/its) **aspect**.

1. Verbs in English/English verbs have only two simple **grammatical tenses:**

a) (the) **present**; only have

b) (the) **past**.

A single verb form does not exist to express the **future**: for this purpose English uses

There does not exist a sole verb form to express the **future**: (to this end)

The **future** is not expressed by a single verb form: to do this/so

various structures (e.g. simple present, present progressive or continuous, *to be going to, will, to be to).*

English verbs

2. Verbs in English have two aspects: the **progressive** (or **continuous**) **aspect** and

the **perfect aspect**. The **progressive aspect** (expressed by the auxiliary verb ***be*** + the

conveyed

**-ing** form implies that the activity indicated by the verb is incomplete at/in a given moment.

form in **-ing** action reported/expressed is not finished at a certain time.

This activity can take place/unfold/happen/occur in the present (e.g. *He is staying with us at*

*the moment.),* in the past (e.g. *We were watching TV when the lights went out.)(,)* or in the future

(e.g. *At this time next year they will be studying at (the) university.).*

3. The **perfect aspect** (expressed by the auxiliary verb ***have*** + the past participle)

connects something which takes place at/in a certain moment with a later time,

links that occurs/happens at a given time to a subsequent moment,

present (e.g. *We have bought the tickets so we can go in now.),* past (e.g. *He had already*

*gone when I arrived.)* or future (e.g. *By 9 o’clock the workers will have finished.)*

4. The two aspects can appear together at the same time and (the)one or the other,

occur/be present simultaneously and either (one) or both can

be used in conjunction with

or both, can also be combined with other auxiliary or modal verbs (e.g. *will, going to,*

be put in combination/together with

so as to create/so that they create

*must),* thus creating (in this way) still/even more complex verb forms (e.g. *Richard has been living in that flat for the past three years; In two months’ time we will have been working in this factory for ten years; The manager must have been preparing this plan for months.)*.

that/which express

N.B. (The) verb forms expressing the two aspects are often considered (as) **grammatical tenses**

(e.g. the present progressive, the past perfect), even though/although, strictly/properly

/technically speaking, English verbs have only/only have two grammatical tenses.