

ENGLISH

GRAMMAR

UNCLOAKED



1. Why do we add an 's' or 'es' to some verbs but not others?

Three Concepts Paramount to Understanding “Grammar”

1) elision; 2) underlying form; & 3) surface form.

Consider:

“I am happy.” = ***“I am a happy person.”***

The first sentence above is in ***underlying form;***
the second is in ***surface form.***

The unnecessary words have been ***elided.***

This dropping of unnecessary information is sometimes
called ***‘conciseness.’***

A Simple Way of Organizing English Verbs

Verb Families

BE	DO	HAVE
P R I M A R Y V E R B S		
am	do	have
is	does	has
are	do	have
was	did	had
were	did	had

Verb Families

← 100 + Irregular verbs

1000s of Regular verbs →

S E C O N D A R Y V E R B S

IRREGULAR VERBS				REGULAR VERBS			
PAST	ate	put	came				walked played stopped laughed
ROOT	eat	put	come	be	do	have	walk play stop laugh
ONGOING	eating	putting	coming	being	doing	having	walking playing stopping laughing
PAST PART.	eaten	put	come	been	done	had	walked played stopped laughed

Positive, Negative, Question

BE

I am a teacher. → I am not a teacher. → Am I a teacher?

He is a teacher → He is not a teacher. → Is he a teacher?

He was a teacher. → He was not a teacher. → Was he a teacher?

DO

I work at HCT. → I do not work at HCT. → Do I work at HCT?

He works at HCT. → He does not work at HCT → Does he work at HCT?

He worked at HCT. → He did not work at HCT. → Did he work at HCT?

HAVE



I have worked at HCT. → I have not worked at HCT. → Have I worked at HCT?

He has worked at HCT. → He has not worked at HCT → Has he worked at HCT?

He had worked at HCT. → He had not worked at HCT. → Had he worked at HCT?

- 1) All negative statements are formed with these three verbs.
- 2) All questions are formed with these three verbs.
- 3) All positive statements are formed with these three verbs.

The Grammar of DO

Subject	Primary verb		Secondary Verb
I	do		play.
You	do		come.
He	does ^s	^s	works ^s .
She	does ^s	^s	dances ^s .
It	does ^s	 ^s 	goes.
Arthur	does ^s	^s	flies.
The teacher	does ^s	^s	thinks ^s .
We	do		run.
You	do		jump.
They	do		have
Ali and Sally	do		want.
The teachers	do		talk.

The Grammar of DO - Past

Subject	Primary verb		Secondary Verb	
I	did	ed	play.	played.
You	did	ed	come.	came.
He	did		work.	worked.
She	did		dance.	danced.
It	did	ed	go.	went.
Ahmed	did		fly.	flew.
The teacher	did		think.	thought.
We	did	ed	run.	ran.
You	did		jump.	jumped.
They	did		have	had
Ali and Ahmed	did	ed	want.	wanted.
The teachers	did	ed	talk.	talked.

30-3 Present tense

Simple present

I prove

I prove the theorem this way.

I go to class at eight.

Familiarity breeds contempt.

Antonio is a good man.

He cudgels his brains, fills reams of paper with strange marks, and proves the binomial theorem.

Often called the simple present, but not usually used for this purpose. Used most commonly to indicate a customary action.

Often used for generalizations.

Used sometimes as the so-called historical present.

Progressive or continuous

I am proving

I am trying to help you.

I am living in Eastwood.

What are you doing now? I am going to college.

Uncommon in English until the eighteenth century, progressive verbs are now probably the most common for expressing the simple present.

Particularly suited to actions begun in the past and continuing into the present.

Gorrell and Laird. (1956). *Modern English Handbook*. Prentice-Hall. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

300 odd years ago



250 not so odd years ago



I cook steak now. I am cooking steak now.

The Simple Present Tense ➡ The Present Progressive Tense

The BE Primary verbs indicate

age

gender

gender

age

appearance

family

I am a teacher.

appearance

institution

ethnicity

specialization

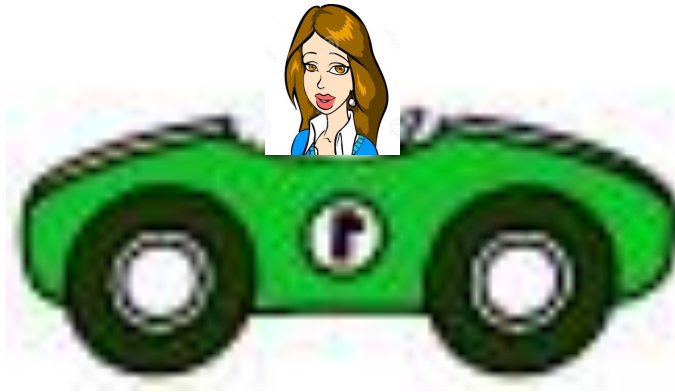
years of experience

a 'contextual' focus



The D0 Primary verbs indicate

I drive a car.



an 'action' focus
(but no context)

The HAVE Primary verbs indicate

I have been teaching

for over 30 years

1990

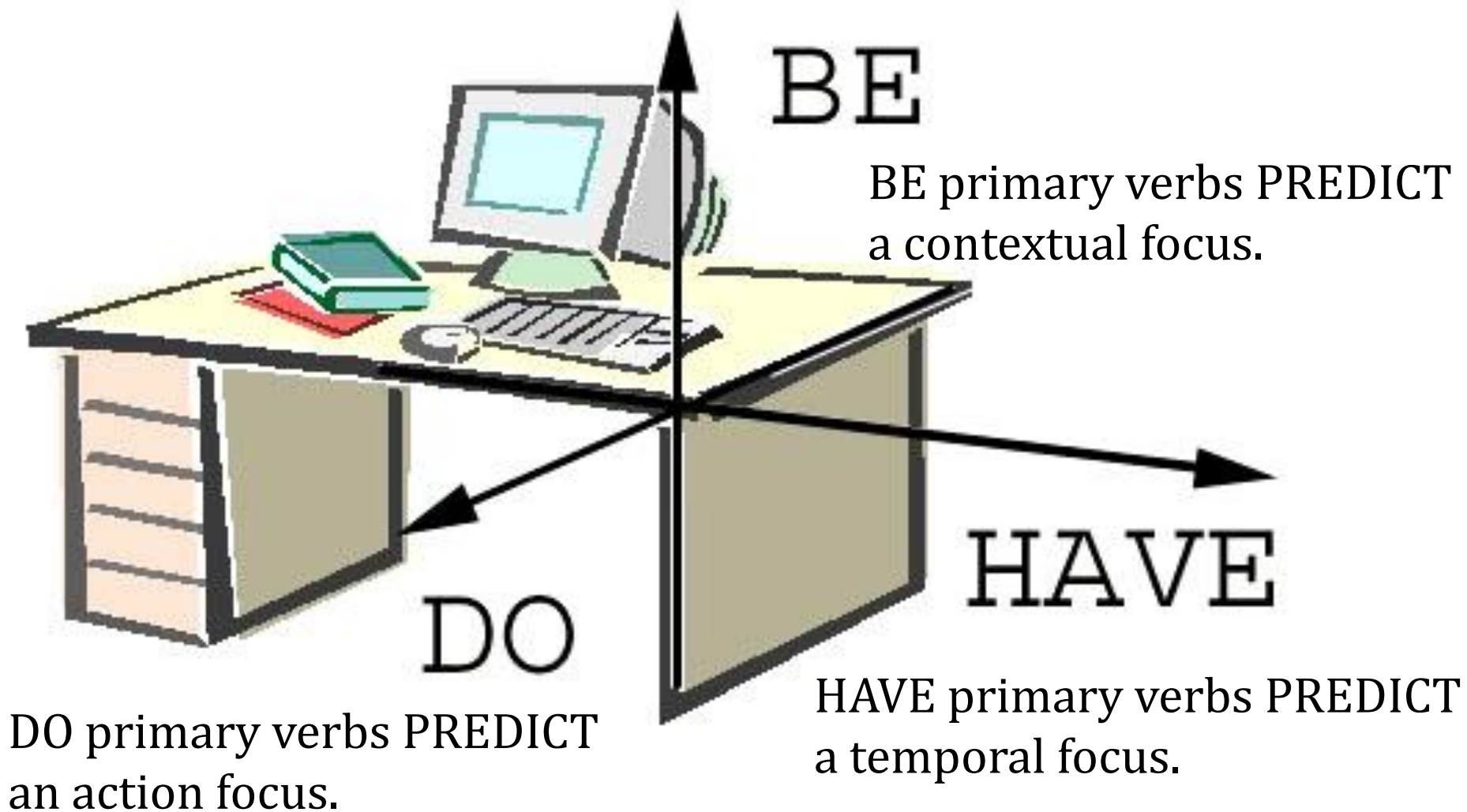
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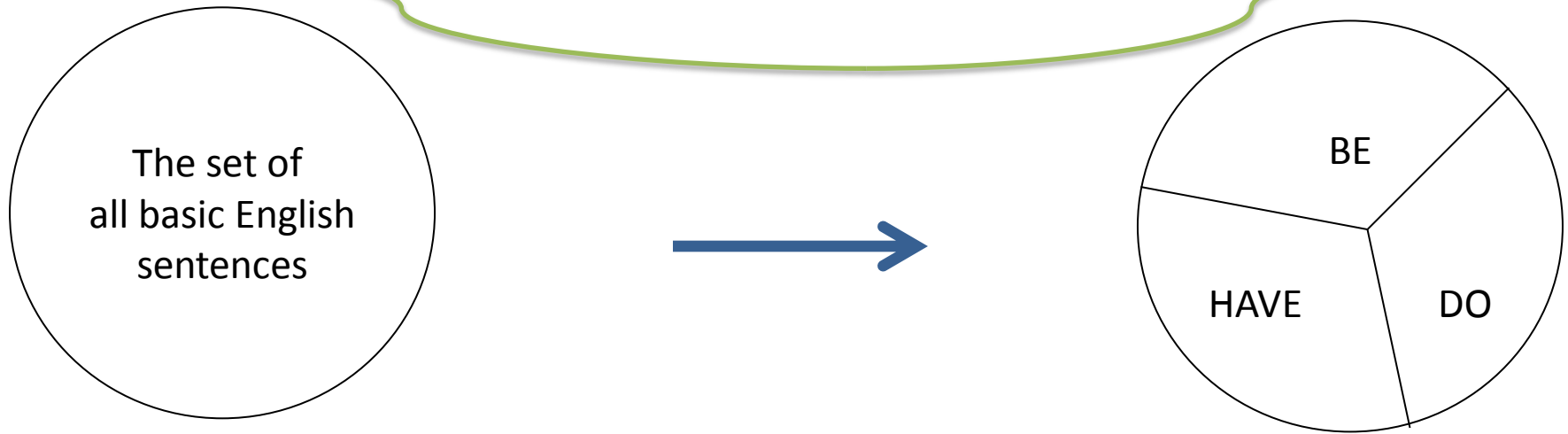


a 'temporal' focus

(with context & action)

The Three Dimensions of English





English has three “Dimensions” of language:

BE Primary verbs indicate a ‘Contextual’ focus;

DO Primary verbs indicate an ‘Action’ focus; and,

HAVE Primary verbs indicate a ‘Temporal’ focus

in the words they introduce.

Elision is the omission of one or more sounds (such as a [vowel](#), a [consonant](#), or a whole [syllable](#)) in a word or phrase, producing a result that is easier for the speaker to pronounce.

Ellipsis (plural **ellipses**; from the [Ancient Greek](#): ἔλλειψις, *élleipsis*, "omission" or "[falling short](#)") is a series of dots that usually indicates an intentional omission of a word, sentence, or whole section from a text without altering its original meaning.
<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/ellipsis>

Underlying form - The abstract form a [morpheme](#) is postulated to have before any phonological rules have been applied to it. In other words, it is the [phonemic](#) form that your mind wants to say; as opposed to the [phonetic](#) or [surface form](#) that results when you actually say it.

English Grammar Uncloaked - Webinar





STORE





Will's BEE



To Be,

is to have been;

was to soon be;

will be to soon have been

to be!