The **verb** is a grammatical class of words.

- It denotes **actions, processes, states or events** and is the central feature of the English clause.

- Therefore the verb is central in expressing the predicative function of the sentence.
Verb morphology

- English verbs can be categorized in a number of different ways.

- On the basis of their function in the verb phrase we can distinguish between main verbs and auxiliaries.
Main verbs

We can recognize five different forms of the main verb:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>the base form</th>
<th>the present tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the present participle</td>
<td>the past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the past tense</td>
<td>the past tense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Will you leave on your own accord?

They asked him to leave.

We leave as soon as I find the tickets.

Leave the room immediately!
regular weak verbs, irregular weak verbs, and strong verbs:

► regular weak verbs (the suffix -ed is added) e.g. *play* – *played* – *played*;

► irregular weak verbs (add the suffix -t or -d and a modification of the verb stem) e.g. *catch* – *caught* – *caught*;

► strong verbs form the past tense and the past participle only by modification of the verb stem (e.g. *swim* – *swam* – *swum*).

► *hang* – *hanged* – *hanged* vs. *hang* – *hung* – *hung*
In a few cases a verb can have both strong and weak forms:

- **hang – hanged – hanged** is typically used with the meaning 'execute by hanging' (They hanged him at dawn),

- **hang – hung – hung** is used for other meanings of the verb (The picture hung on the wall, They hung the new curtains in the dining-room).
In other cases the formal differences indicate two homonymic verbs with totally unrelated meaning:

lie – lay – lain (BG 'лежа')
lie – lied – lied (BG 'лъжа')
Lexico-grammatical Classification of Verbs

Verbs

- Verbs of full nominative value
  - Auxiliary verbs
    - Primary verbs
    - Modal verbs
  - Catenative verbs
- Verbs of partial nominative value
  - Link verbs
Full Verbs

► Verbs of full nominative value (=notional verbs) denote situations that are presented dynamically (=developing in time).

► Verbs of partial nominative value are characterized by various relational properties.

► They establish the connection between the nominative content of the sentence and reality.
Auxiliaries

- Auxiliary verbs can be further subdivided into primary auxiliaries and modal auxiliaries.

- **Primary auxiliaries** (*be*, *have*, *do*) are employed in constituting **analytical grammatical forms**:

  - be + *-ing* participle → progressive aspect form
  - have + *-ed2* participle → perfect aspect form
  - be + *-ed2* participle → passive voice form
  - do + *infinitive* → interrogative & negative simple forms
Modal auxiliaries

- **can/could, may/might, ought to, shall/should and will/would**

- the contrast in meaning between *can* and *could* (may – might; will – would; etc) is not the same as that between present and past tense forms of other verbs.

- They combine with various **infinitive forms** of notional verbs to constitute **verb phrases**.

- Such phrases function as **compound verbal modal predicate**: *I can swim.*
Catenative verbs

- 'lexical verbs which are used as if they were auxiliaries'
- all their formal properties are typical of lexical verbs, but their meaning has some resemblance to that of certain auxiliaries
- Catenative verbs combine with non-finite forms of notional verbs to constitute verb phrases.

It began raining.
The boy made his father play football with him.
Catenative verbs employ primary auxiliaries in expressing grammatical meanings.

► It was beginning to rain. (progressive)
► The man was made to accept the gob. (passive)
► I had started doing the housework before she arrived. (perfect)
Multi-word verbs

► Phrasal verbs, e.g. *come about* ‘happen’, *look up* ‘find [a word in a dictionary]’;

► Prepositional verbs, e.g. He [*looked for*] her card. She [*looked after*] the younger children.

► Phrasal-prepositional verbs, e.g. *checked up on* ‘investigated’; *do away with* ‘abolish’; *put up with* ‘tolerate’;

► Delexical verbs, e.g. *give a push, have a break, make progress, take a look.*
Semantic Classification of Full Verbs

- Full verbs denote verbal situations. We can distinguish three types of verbal situation: state, event, action (Jackson 1990).

- Verbs of STATE can be further subdivided into verbs of:
  - quality – these denote permanent characteristics of the referent of their subject:
    She is blonde. She’s got blonde hair.
  - temporary state – these denote temporary characteristics of the referent of their subject:
    He was very happy.
Verbs of **STATE**

private state – here belong verbs denoting
- 1. **intellectual state** (know, understand);
- 2. **emotion or attitude** (like, hate, regard);
- 3. **perception** (see, hear); **bodily sensation** (ache, itch). Verbs of this type refer to **states of mind** and **feeling** of the referent of the subject:

  - I know this man.
  - I like apples.
  - I see skies of blue.
  - My back aches.

- **stance** – they denote the **position of someone or something in space**:

  - She was sitting by the fire.
Verbs of EVENT

They refer to situations that take place without an agent or an instigator. The referent of the subject is involved in the verbal situation involuntarily:

- He fell to the floor.
- The sun set beyond the horizon.
Verbs of ACTION

► They refer to situations that are performed by animate agents or else are caused by animate instigators.

► Actions are voluntary and intentional.

They are playing tennis.
She ran away.
He nodded in agreement.
A verb may denote several meanings belonging to different semantic types:

► They could see the crowd in front of the gates. (state)
► They saw the New Year in together. (action)
► The moon went out of sight. (event)
► They went out for dinner. (action)
H. Jackson’s diagram shows the semantic classification of situation types (Jackson 1990: 15):

- **State**
  - Quality
    - Intellectual
    - Emotion/attitude
    - Perception
    - Bodily sensations
  - Private state
  - Temporary state
  - Stance

- **Non-state**
  - Event
    - Goings-on
    - Process
    - Momentary event
    - Transitional event
  - Action
    - Activity
    - Accomplishment
    - Momentary act
    - Transitional act