

Word-Classes in E4BT

2. VERBS – part I

English has three kinds of verbs:

1. **full verbs** (also called **main verbs** or **lexical verbs**)

- ✓ tell you “what happened” or “what the situation is”;
- ✓ have **regular** and/or **irregular** forms → **verbal paradigms**;
- ✓ can be used **transitively** and/or **intransitively**;
- ✓ have an **active** and a **passive** form.
- ✓ **grammatical collocations** (e.g.: *to aim at + -ing form* or *to + basic form*, *to call for*, *to deal with*, *to focus on*, *to protect against*, *to result in*, *to result from*, *to suffer from*, *to be infected with* and so on ...);
- ✓ **lexical collocations** (e.g.: *to administer a drug*, *to become ill*, *to become infected*, *to develop cancer*, *to develop a vaccine*, *to give sb a vaccine*, and so on);
- ✓ **false friends** (e.g.: *to administer*, *to attend*, *to arrange*, *to expect*, *to occur*, *to pretend*, *to process*, *to realize*, *to recover*, and so on);
- ✓ **compound predicates or verbs** (e.g.: *The ducks flew overhead and landed in the water*).

2. **auxiliaries**

- ✓ to be (was/were, been), to have (had, had), to do (did, done);
- ✓ are used to make complex verbal structures.

3. **modals** (also called **auxiliary modals**)

- ✓ can, could; may, might; will, would; shall, should; have to, must, need, ought to ... and so on
- ✓ add subjective extra meanings.

REMEMBER that auxiliaries and modals differ from full verbs in four ways, the so-called **NICE** features (**N**egation, **I**nversion, **C**ode, **E**mphasis).