Language Awareness for Key Stage 3 11: Tense and Aspect

	Key Terms		Optional Ter	rms			
٠	Tense	•	Pluperfect				
٠	Absolute Tense	•	Metrical Tense				
•	Relative Tense	•	Recent Past				
٠	Past	•	Remote Past				
٠	Present	•	Continuous				
•	Future						
•	Perfect						
٠	Auxiliary						
٠	Aspect						
٠	Progressive						
٠	Simple						
•	Imperfective						
٠	Perfective						
Lee	reduction. Tance and Acrest						
	troduction: Tense and Aspect	1	1 / 1				
•	Today we will look at two properties that w		—				
•	We will look at three types of tense: absolute tense, relative tense, and metrical tense We will see how different languages form tenses in different ways						
•							
	We will also see how aspect gives us different ways of looking at the same event						
•		rent way	s of looking at the sam	e event			
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- The past perfect introduces a new point in time in the past •
 - They <u>had been</u> to France already before last year

	Last	year		
Frar	nce			
Past •	•	Pre- ntroduces a new point in ave been to France by r		Future
•			-	t year
Past ●	• •	Pres introduces a new point been to France already	l sent in time at the present	Future
		Ν	ow.	
Frar	nce			
Past			sent	Future
• • • •	All the tenses All the tenses we've future The past tense tells past it happened However, some lang Tenses that make th One such language Aymara has a recen thing that happened O Akanka <u>skat</u> 'She was he O Akanka <u>skat</u>	e seen so far are based o you that an event happe guages have tenses that ese finer distinctions ar is Aymara, which is spo t past tense, for things t longer ago <u>aynax</u> ere (recently)' <u>1x</u> ere (long ago)'	ened in the past, but it do refer to more specific pe re called <u>metrical tenses</u> oken in Peru	me into past, present, and esn't tell you when in the
←				
Past		Pre	sent	Future
•	today and another te There are also langu	ense for yesterday	n more complicated, with at can also make this sort e recent past	

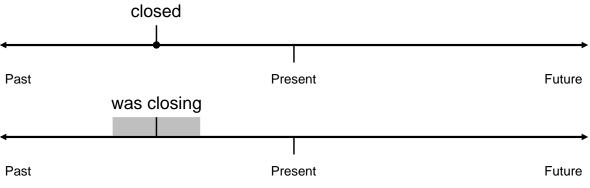
- French has a special way of referring to the recent past
 - o Elle vient d'être ici 'She's just been here' (literally, 'She's coming from being here')

- French uses a combination of verbs to express what Aymara expresses with a special form of a single verb
- You may remember that verbs used with other verbs in this way are called <u>auxiliaries</u>
- Languages differ in whether they use auxiliaries, and where they use them
- Tense Formation
 - In English, the only tenses formed without an auxiliary are the present and the past; other languages require at least one auxiliary
 - Other languages, such as Latin, can form all the same tenses without auxiliaries

English	Latin
They stand	Stant
They stood	Stabant
They will stand	Stabint
They have stood	Steterunt
They had stood	Steterant
They will have stood	Steterint

- As a rule of thumb, the more basic a tense is, the less likely it is to need an auxiliary
- For example, there are more language that use auxiliaries for the future perfect (*will have stood*) than for the present (*stand*)
- Different languages often choose similar auxiliaries for the same tenses
- For example, it is quite common for languages to use verbs meaning 'have' for the perfect
 - I have sung (English)
 - o J'<u>ai</u> chanté (French)
 - Ich <u>habe</u> gesungen (German)
- Another common auxiliary for the perfect is 'be'
- Some languages use 'have' with some verbs and 'be' with others, as in French
 - J'<u>ai</u> chanté
 - 'I have sung'
 - o Je <u>suis</u> tombé
 - 'I have fallen' (literally, 'I am fallen')
- In these languages, the verbs most likely to use 'be' refer to motion (e.g. 'come', 'go') or a change of state (e.g. 'become', 'be born', 'die')
- Other languages use 'be' for the perfect of all verbs, as in Finnish
 - o Olen laulanut
 - 'I have sung' (literally, 'Am sung')
- Finnish (like Irish) is a language without a verb meaning 'have'
- Instead of 'I have a book', people say 'A book is at me'
- Irish doesn't use an auxiliary for the perfect at all
- Instead, Irish uses prepositions to form these tenses
 - o Tá mé tar éis canadh
 - am I after singing
 - 'I have sung'
- Varieties of English that have been influenced by Irish do the same thing
 - I'm after singing
- For some people, this is a recent past, like in Aymara and French
- For other people, it simply means 'I have sung'
- Aspect
 - The type of distinction expressed by <u>aspect</u> can be seen most easily by looking at examples from English

- I was closing the door
- I closed the door
- In both these examples, the closing takes place at some point in the past
- In the first sentence, the <u>progressive</u> (or <u>continuous</u>) past means that the door is still open, but closing is in progress
- In the second sentence, the <u>simple</u> past makes it clear that closing is complete and the door was shut
- You can visualise this difference using a timeline



- The actual time it takes to close the door may be the same whichever form you use
- The progressive form lets you select a single moment in this process, so you can talk about what else was happening then
 - I was closing the door when John squeezed through it
- The simple form lets you take the event as a whole and then move on to something else
 - I <u>closed</u> the door and <u>left</u>
- The progressive form doesn't specify whether an event is ever completed
 - I was closing the door when John squeezed through it
 - This might mean that the door never got closed at all
 - I <u>closed</u> the door and <u>left</u>

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- This can only mean that the door did get closed
- The type of aspect expressed by forms like the progressive present is called <u>imperfective</u>
- The type of aspect expressed by forms like the simple present is called <u>perfective</u>
- Many different languages make this sort of distinction

Language	Imperfective	Perfective
English	I was eating	I ate
Spanish	Comía	Comí
Polish	Jadłem	Zjadłem

- Some languages, such as Spanish, make this distinction only in the past tense
 - Remember that in English the simple present is relatively uncommon for many verbs
- In other languages, such as Polish, the perfective present forms are taken as referring to future time
 - In English the simple present can also refer to future events (e.g. *My plane leaves tomorrow*)
 - However, in English progressive presents can do this too (e.g. *My plane is leaving tomorrow*)

• Conclusion

- Today we have looked at absolute tenses, which identify an event as past, present, or future
- We have seen how relative tenses relate events both to the present and to another point in time
- We have seen how metrical tenses measure distance in time
- As well as tense, verbs can have imperfective or perfective aspect
- Both tense and aspect can be expressed either by a single verb or by using an auxiliary with a verb