

Chapter 12 Time and Time Again: Tense, Aspect, and Finiteness

Additional information and practice

Additional information on “steady”

The use of ‘steady’ seems similar to “always” in sE. However, “steady” refers to “a single activity that is habitual, consistent or intense” (Martin, 2018b) whereas “always” can “refer to several discrete past actions” (Martin, 2018b). This means that in AAE, you can combine “steady” and “always” as in “She was always steady jumping” (Baugh 1984, p. 10).

More practice from Exercise 2

Tense and Aspect Continued from Round 1. Label tense (past, present, future) and aspect (simple, progressive, perfect) for each of the italicized {VPs} below.

Example:

It **was** in the apple that the witch *had gave* Snow White that wasn’t poisonous.¹ (ChE)

- *was*: tense – past; aspect: simple
- *had gave*: tense: past; aspect: perfect

- a) The polls *had shown* a divided race prior to last night’s interview. (sE)
- b) My spouse and I *were dropping off* the prescription when our friend *called*. (sE)
- c) I know he was a-tellin’ the truth, but I *was a-comin’* home.² (AE)
- d) Everyone *is watching* the presidential address on TV right now. (sE)
- e) They *are leaving* on a great adventure; you should go with.³ (ME)
- f) My cat *will purr* any minute now. (sE)

More practice from Exercise 3

Tense and Aspect Continued from Round 2. Label tense (past, present, future) and aspect(s) (progressive, perfect, simple) for each of the italicized {VPs} below (all sE; produced with help of OpenAI⁴).

- a) Avery *has been running* for a whole week before they *felt* tired.
- b) They *will have been traveling* for over 24 hours by the time they reach their destination.

¹ Bayley, R., and O. Santa Ana (2004), ‘Chicano English: Morphology and Syntax’, In B. Kortmann, B., E. Schneider, K. Burridge, R. Mesthrie, and C. Upton, (eds), *A Handbook of Varieties of English*, vol. 2, 374-90, Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter, p.171.

² Matyiku, S. (2011), ‘A-prefixing’, *Yale Grammatical Diversity Project: English in North America*. (Available online at <http://ygdv.yale.edu/phenomena/a-prefixing>. Accessed on 2024 -02-24). Updated by Tom McCoy (2015) and Katie Martin (2018).

³ Kaplan, A. (2015), ‘Come with’, *Yale Grammatical Diversity Project: English in North America*. (Available online at <http://ygdv.yale.edu/phenomena/come-with>. Accessed on 2024-03-22). Updated by Tom McCoy (2015) and Katie Martin (2018).

⁴ Sentences created with the assistance of OpenAI, 2024.

- c) They *are playing* soccer in the park.
- d) The researcher *had been working* on the project all week when she discovered the error.
- e) She *was preparing* her presentation when the phone rang.
- f) They *will be moving* to a new city this time next year.
- g) Brooke *has completed* her degrees in engineering and marketing recently.
- h) They *had traveled* to three different countries by the time they returned home.
- i) They *will have finished* their exams by next Friday.

More practice from Exercise 6

What is each italicized feature called? Provide the name and then list the dialect(s) each feature is associated with.

- a) So any little thing he *done did*, she was on top of them.⁵
- b) He *BIN running*.⁶
- c) Or if the boys be out, we *be talking* to them.⁷

⁵ Kendall, T., M. Quartey, C. Farrington, J. McLarty, S. Arnson, and B. Josler, B. (2018). *The Corpus of Regional African American Language: DCB* (Washington DC 2016). Version 2018.10.06. Eugene, OR: The Online Resources for African American Language Project. <http://oraal.uoregon.edu/coraal>. Transcript ID DCB_se3_ag3_m_02_1.

⁶ Green, L. (2002), *African American English: A Linguistic Introduction*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 56.

⁷ Kendall, T., R. Fasold, C. Farrington, J. McLarty, J., S. Arnson, and B. Josler (2018). *The Corpus of Regional African American Language: DCA* (Washington DC 1968). Version 2018.10.06. Eugene, OR: The Online Resources for African American Language Project. <http://oraal.uoregon.edu/coraal>. Transcript ID DCA_se2_ag1_f_05_1.