

Examenskurs Sprachbeherrschung

Presentation: Info

- Your presentation must not exceed the **20-minute time limit**. It is therefore essential that you focus only on the most important issues connected with your topic.
- Please prepare a **handout** with the most important facts and **examples**. The handout must not exceed **four** pages! It should also contain information on where to find relevant information – i.e. an indication of the **pages/chapters** in the grammars that you used. On the course homepage www.christina-sanchez.de/teaching/sprachbeherrschung.html, you will find some reading suggestions that may help you in the preparation of your presentation.
- Please send me your handout by **e-mail** at least **two weeks** before your presentation is due, so that I still have enough time to give you feedback on it. Should you have any questions or should you like to talk your presentation over with me beforehand, you may of course also come and see me during my **office hours**.
- Please bring enough copies of your handout for all participants to class.
- In your presentation, give your fellow students a **structured overview** with **examples** for illustration, draw their attention to some exceptions but do not get lost in too much detail.
- I expect you to cover the following points in your presentation (but not more):

Present perfect – Past – Past perfect

- tense
- tense vs. time: one-to-many correspondences
- present perfect: form, usage (> relation to present), signal words
pp resultative/continuous/iterative/of the immediate past
- past: form (> {D} variants; irregular forms; spelling rule: y > i),
usage (> finished in the past), signal words
- past perfect: form, usage (> anteriority)
- *since* (point in time) vs. *for* (period of time)
- present tense with past meaning in headlines
- learner mistakes: overuse of present perfect instead of past tense in the South
present tense instead of present perfect continuative

Simple vs. progressive aspect

- aspect (vs. tense)
- simple/progressive/perfective/non-perfective aspect
- simple: usage: general fact, state, ability, repetition, habit, chain of actions;
performative verbs
focus on the result
signal words: *usually, often, ...*
- progressive: action in progress, gradual change, repeated action within a limited
period; background action in progress; two parallel actions
focus on duration/process
signal words: *now, currently, ...*
- form (spelling rules for double consonants)
- special uses of the progressive
 - intensification (*How I'm hating you!*); with *always*: anger/annoyance (*He's always borrowing money from me*), amusement/surprise (*I'm always meeting him*)
 - with stative verbs: current behaviour (*You are being cruel*)

Expressing future time

- there is no future tense (> periphrastic; *will*: volitive component)
- different ways of expressing futurity
 - *will* future: form, usage (spontaneous volition; experience-based prediction)
 - *going to* future: form, usage (plan; fairly certain evidence-based prediction)
 - *shall* future: form, usage (like *will*; more formal; 1st person only)
 - timetable future: simple present; almost certain events
 - present progressive: personal arrangements and fixed plans
 - lexical means of expressing futurity
 - time adverbials (*He's coming tomorrow.*)
 - *be about to* + inf. (close events)
 - *be to* + inf. (schedules; orders)

Passive voice

- voice (*genus verbi*): active vs. passive
- *by*-agent
- functions of the passive (agent unknown/clear/not to be mentioned; stress *by*-agent in the rheme)
- types:
 - *have*-passive vs. *get*-passive
 - *Vorgangs-* vs. *Zustandspassiv* (> process vs. result)
 - impersonal vs. personal passive
 - mediopassive (*Your shirt washes well.*)
 - prepositional passive (*Measures are being talked about.*)
- passivisation of the *that*-clause with verbs of reporting, opinion and supposition (*He is said to be rich.*)

Reported speech

- direct vs. reported/indirect speech
- reported/reporting verb
- backshift of tenses:
 - condition (reporting verb in past tense)
 - from which tense to which tense?
 - when impossible?
- other changes:
 - adverbials of time and place
 - pronouns

Modality

- epistemic (factuality) vs. deontic (control) modality
- speech intentions expressed through modality (obligation, suggestion, ...)
- means of expressing modality (mode, modal auxiliaries, lexical means)
- modal auxiliaries
 - defective verbs (no *do*-support, no non-finite forms, no past tense forms, ...)
 - substitute forms (*be allowed to* etc.)
 - *need, dare, used to*: full verbs vs. auxiliaries
 - putative *should*
- typical mistakes: *must* vs. *have to* (internal vs. external obligation)
must not vs. *muss nicht* (*need not*)

Conditional

- conditional sentence types (zero conditional + type 1, 2, 3 + mixed types)
 - form (combination of tenses)
 - meaning (possibility of fulfilment)
- inversion without conjunction
- typical mistakes:
 - *would* in the *if*-clause (<> politeness, obstinacy)
 - comma before *if*

Subjunctive

- form:
 - present subjunctive (bare infinitive)
 - past subjunctive (bare infinitive or *were*)
- meaning (express necessity and/or importance)
- fixed expressions (*God save the Queen.*)
- alternatives (*should*; modal past)
- use (more formal; more common in AE)

Infinitive

- bare infinitive
- *to*-infinitive
- split infinitive
- infinitive active vs. passive
- infinitive + tense
- *to*-infinitive in shortened relative clauses
- infinitive of purpose

Participles and *-ing* forms

- *-ing*/present participle and *-ed*/past participle
- discussion of terms/concepts: participle vs. gerund vs. verbal/deverbal noun
- gradience: participles vs. adjectives
- shortened relative and adverbial clauses
- meaning difference in infinitives vs. *-ing* forms
- participle constructions
 - related/misrelated/absolute/unrelated
 - temporal/causal/circumstantial/conditional/modal/concessive

Nouns and articles

- proper vs. common nouns
- countable vs. uncountable nouns (differences between E/G, e.g. *advice*)
- possessive forms (*s*-genitive, *of*-genitive, double genitive)
- plural forms ({S} variants; irregular plurals: spelling in *-y/-o/-f*, vowel mutation, zero plural, Latin plural)
- formal vs. notional concord
- typical concord mistakes (*police, United States, news*)
- use of definite vs. indefinite article
- different use of articles in E/G (e.g. *das menschliche Leben = \emptyset human life*)

Pronouns vs. determiners

- pronoun types:
 - personal
 - possessive
 - reflexive
 - reciprocal
 - demonstrative
 - relative
 - interrogative
 - indefinite
- pronouns vs. determiners
- *some* vs. *any*
- *much* vs. *many*
- gender avoidance (plural; *they* with singular; *s/he*)

Relative clauses

- adnominal vs. sentence-related vs. nominal relative clauses
- defining vs. non-defining relative clauses
- relative pronouns and their usage
- contact clauses
- relative adverbs

Adjectives

- criteria for adjectivehood
- attributive and predicative use
- synthetic vs. analytic comparison (+ mnemonic)
- irregular comparatives and double forms (e.g. *old – older/elder – oldest/eldest*)

Adverbs & Adverbials

- adverbs vs. adverbials
- comparison of adverbs
- adverbs which have the same form as adjectives (e.g. *fast*)
- adverbs which have double forms (e.g. *hard – hardly*)
- position in the sentence
- forms of adverbials (AdvP, clauses, ...)
- (function of adverbials: adjunct/subjunct/conjunct/disjunct or circumstance/stance/linking adverbials)

Organizing information & Word order

- information principle
- end-weight principle
- word order in statements and questions
- inversion (full inversion and semi-inversion)
- fronting
- extraposition (anticipatory *it*)
- cleft sentences
- pseudo cleft sentences