PROFESORES DE ENSEÑANZA SECUNDARIA · INGLÉS · JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

TEMA

18

Location in Time: Temporal Relations. Frequency

La localización en el tiempo: Relaciones temporales. Frecuencia.

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NOVIEMBRE DE 2026

Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

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1. INTRODUCTION

"Time is a universal, non-linguistic concept with three divisions: past, present, and future; by tense we understand the correspondence between the form of the verb and our concept of time." With these words Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum open their discussion of tense in A University Grammar of English, and the sentence sets out the problem of this topic very neatly. Time belongs to the world, but every language has to decide how much of it to build into its grammar and how much to leave to other words. Welcome to Topic 18: Location in Time: Temporal Relations. Frequency. To address it, I will divide my exposition into five sections. Firstly, I will examine location in time: tense, aspect and the classification of time adverbials, and then the answer to the question "when?". Secondly, I will study temporal relations: duration, and the relations of anteriority, simultaneity and posteriority between events, both within the clause and between clauses. Thirdly, I will describe frequency, from "how often?" to the position of the adverbs that express it. Fourthly, I will compare all of this with Spanish, since the typical mistakes of our pupils come precisely from there. Finally, I will reflect on the pedagogical implications of the topic within our current educational framework.

Before moving on, I would like to mention the sources consulted for the preparation of this topic. These include: Quirk and Greenbaum's A University Grammar of English, Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech and Svartvik's A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language, Huddleston and Pullum's The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language, Hilde Hasselgård's Adjunct Adverbials in English, and Bernard Comrie's Tense, as well as the online reference materials of the British Council and the Council of Europe. I have also drawn on the LOMLOE (Organic Law 3/2020), Real Decreto 217/2022 and 243/2022, and Decreto 110/2022 and 109/2022 of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura.