

The English Verb Phrase

1. They watch us.
 2. They are watching us.
 3. They have watched us.
 4. They might watch us.
 5. They will watch us.
 6. They might be watching us.
 7. We are watched (by them).
 8. We will be watched (").
 9. We have been watched (").
 10. We will have been watched (").
 11. They watched us.
 12. They were watching us.
 13. They had watched us.
 14. They might have watched us.
 15. They will have watched us.
 16. They may have been watching us.
 17. We were watched (by them).
 18. We could have been watched (").
 19. We had been watched (").
 20. We would have been watched (").
 21. We must have been being watched (by them).
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- a. Where does the present or past tense morpheme go? State the rule.
 - b. How do you form a question answerable by “yes” or “no” for each of the statements above? State the rule.
 - c. If you wanted to put a **not** into each of the statements above, how would the sentence look? State the rule.
 - d. Can you contract any part of the sentences above? Which parts? How? State the rules.
 - e. What happens if you change the order of any of the auxiliaries above? Are there any other words that might substitute for any of them?
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A Found Sentence

I just ran across the following sentence, in a proposal to extend the LS&A Drop/Add deadline by one week.

Along with the gains students will receive from moving the deadline back, this will also help to alleviate many of the problems that accompany the start of each new semester, which often times hinder a students' ability to assess their entire courseload and their own level of interest.

The idea here probably represents a sentiment you agree with; it seems right to me. But this sentence doesn't put the case at all well.

For one thing, there are several howlers that distract attention; for another, the reference is a little muddy. (These are hints; there is plenty wrong to find here)

Bring your lists of Things That Are Wrong With This Sentence to class Tuesday.