

HANDOUT ON THE MID-SEMESTER ASSIGNMENT

Here is the text you were given, with the verb tokens boldfaced and numbered:

A Spanish-based airline which **flew**₁ to European hotspots from UK airports **has**₂ **suspended**₃ all flights due to its “financial situation”.

Among the destinations that LTE International **operated**₄ **were**₅ Majorca, Tenerife, Barcelona, Malaga and Alicante.

UK holiday company Cosmos **said**₆ that around 350 of its holidaymakers due to **fly**₇ out to Tenerife today with LTE **were**₈ now **being flown**_{9,10} out by UK holiday airline Monarch.

Cosmos **added**₁₁ that about 350 Britons due to **return**₁₂ from Tenerife to the UK today with LTE **would**₁₃ now **fly**₁₄ back to Manchester airport tonight with Monarch.

“We **are**₁₅ **reviewing**₁₆ what **will**₁₇ **happen**₁₈ over the next few days,” a Cosmos spokeswoman **said**₁₉.

On its website today, LTE **said**₂₀: “We **wish**₂₁ to **inform**₂₂ you that due to the financial situation of the company, that **makes**₂₃ it difficult to **meet**₂₄ the operational expenses in the next days, we **have**₂₅ **had**₂₆ to **suspend**₂₇ our charter and scheduled operations.

“We **apologise**₂₈ for the inconvenience this **may**₂₉ **cause**₃₀ to our passengers, clients and suppliers.”

And here are the text’s thirty clauses. The list is slightly revised from the original assignment, which missed one clause and duplicated another (note: these errors made the assignment slightly easier, not harder!). The clauses have been placed in the same order as their predicators in the text, for ease of reference to the text above. The predicator of each clause has been boldfaced, and NP gaps (including subject gaps) are shown as ‘ ___ ’ to assist in identifying relative or comparative clauses.

1. *which ___ **flew** to European hotspots from UK airports*
2. *a Spanish-based airline which ___ flew to European hotspots from UK airports **has** suspended all flights due to its “financial situation”*
3. ***suspended** all flights due to its “financial situation”*
4. *that LTE International **operated** ___*
5. *among the destinations that LTE International operated ___ **were** Majorca, Tenerife, Barcelona, Malaga and Alicante*
6. *UK holiday company Cosmos **said** that around 350 of its holidaymakers due to fly out to Tenerife today with LTE were now being flown out by UK holiday airline Monarch*
7. *to **fly** out to Tenerife today with LTE*
8. *that around 350 of its holidaymakers due to fly out to Tenerife today with LTE **were** now being flown out by UK holiday airline Monarch*
9. ***being** flown out by UK holiday airline Monarch*
10. ***flown** out by UK holiday airline Monarch*
11. *Cosmos **added** that about 350 Britons due to return from Tenerife to the UK today with LTE would now fly back to Manchester airport tonight with Monarch*
12. *to **return** from Tenerife to the UK today with LTE*
13. *that about 350 Britons due to return from Tenerife to the UK today with LTE **would** now fly back to Manchester airport tonight with Monarch*

14. *fly back to Manchester airport tonight with Monarch*
15. *we **are** reviewing what ___ will happen over the next few days*
16. ***reviewing** what ___ will happen over the next few days*
17. *what ___ **will** happen over the next few days*
18. ***happen** over the next few days*
19. *“We are reviewing what ___ will happen over the next few days,” a Cosmos spokeswoman **said***
20. *on its website today, LTE **said**: “We wish to inform you that due to the financial situation of the company, that ___ makes it difficult to meet the operational expenses in the next days, we have had to suspend our charter and scheduled operations*
21. *we **wish** to inform you that due to the financial situation of the company, that ___ makes it difficult to meet the operational expenses in the next days, we have had to suspend our charter and scheduled operations*
22. *to **inform** you that due to the financial situation of the company, that ___ makes it difficult to meet the operational expenses in the next days, we have had to suspend our charter and scheduled operations*
23. *that ___ **makes** it difficult to meet the operational expenses in the next days*
24. *to **meet** the operational expenses in the next days*
25. *that due to the financial situation of the company, that ___ makes it difficult to meet the operational expenses in the next days, we **have** had to suspend our charter and scheduled operations*
26. ***had** to suspend our charter and scheduled operations*
27. *to **suspend** our charter and scheduled operations*
28. *we **apologise** for the inconvenience this may cause ___ to our passengers, clients and suppliers*
29. *this **may** cause ___ to our passengers, clients and suppliers*
30. ***cause** ___ to our passengers, clients and suppliers*

0.1 Part B — Essay question

B1 invites you to make these four points: (a) Many verbs (*keep, seem, tend, ...*) have obligatory complements and thus do not and cannot ‘stand alone’; (b) Almost anything in the VP might be said to ‘add extra information’: adverbs, particles, modifiers of all kinds; (c) An auxiliary (as defined under (d)) is sometimes the only verb in its sentence, hence cannot possibly be said to be ‘helping’ some other verb; (d) The way to define auxiliaryhood is by reference to (i) the syntax of Subject-Auxiliary Inversion (a verb can begin a non-imperative main clause if and only if it is one of the auxiliaries); (ii) the morphology of negation (only auxiliaries can take the suffix *n’t*); (iii) the syntax of negation (a verb allows *not* after it as a clause negator if and only if it is an auxiliary).

B2 invites you to make these four points: (a) A word like *before* is not a subordinating conjunction (what CGEL calls a subordinator) or an adverb, but a preposition. (b) It is thus like *after, since, because, although*, and more distantly *at, by*, etc. (c) One clear argument for this is that *right before he left* is a grammatical PP (*right* only modifies prepositions in contemporary Standard English). (d) *Before* is unlike subordinators in being (i) never selected by matrix verbs; (ii) never omissible; (iii) a member of a fairly open class of meaningful items; (iv) homophonous with an item already recognized as a preposition (as in *before the flood*). And it is unlike adverbs in that it (i) takes a clause complement; (ii) does not accept *very* as premodifier (**very before this*) (iii) does not premodify verbs (**They before went home; *They before it happened went home*); (iv) does not premodify adjective phrases (**before perilous*) or adverb phrases (**before perilously*).