requires imperfective; *stop* + perfective is now interpreted as a hypotactic clause complex of purpose, as in

‖ she stopped ×‖β to think ‖ 'she stopped, in order to think'

There is also an inceptive-durative 'start to go on', as in *they've taken to coming in at the back door instead of the front.*

At the deepest level time-phase and reality-phase are the same thing: both are concerned with the stages of becoming. A process is something that emerges out of imagination into reality, like the rising of the sun. Before dawn, the sun shines only in the future, or only in the imagination — as future turns into present, imagination turns into reality. The two categories of phase are related to modality and tense; but whereas modality and tense are interpreted as subcategorizations of one process (they are grammatical variants within one verbal group), phase is interpreted as a hypotactic relation between two processes: a general one of becoming, that is then elaborated by the specific action, event, mental process or relation that is being phased in or out. Examples (cf. Figure 7-20):

(the egg) | seemed =|β to get | (further and further away)
(Alice) | began =|β nibbling | (at the mushroom)
(the call) | turned out =|β to have been | (a false alarm)

the egg	seemed	to get	further and further away
Subject	'past' Finite	seem Predicator	Adjunct
		α ⟶ = β	
Actor/ Medium	Process: material		Location: Place

Fig. 7-20 Hypotactic verbal group complex:phase

(2) Extending a process: conation. Here the basic notion is that of 'have (possession) + do'; in other words, success. The semantic relation between the primary and the secondary verb is one of CONATION: trying, and succeeding. This too has provided the resources for another tense form and another modality (Table 7(17)):

Table 7(17) Conation

Category: Meaning	System	Term	Aspect of β-verb	Examples
[have	⟶ tense	past in	neutral	has done]
[have	⟶ modality	required to	perf.	has to do]
try	conation	conative	perf.	try to/and do, attempt to do; avoid/(can't) help doing
succeed	conation	reussive	imperf./ perf.	succeed in doing; manage/get to do; fail (in) doing/to do
[can	⟶ modality	be able to	perf.	can do]
can	potentiality	be able to	perf.	be(un)able/(not) know how to do
learn	potentiality	become able to	perf./ imperf.	learn to do; practise doing

Again, there are two dimensions: there is the potential, and the actual. The potential means having, or alternatively not having, the ability to succeed. The actual means trying, or not trying; and succeeding, or not succeeding. The form with *have* has evolved like the forms with *be* above. Originally two verbal groups, it is now either (i) + *done*, a secondary tense form 'past in', e.g. *has done* 'past in present', *will have done* 'past in future', *was going to have done* 'past in future in past' and so on; or (ii) + *to do*, a modal form (of the 'modulation' type; see Chapter 10, Section 10.8 below), e.g. *has to do* 'must do'. In other words, 'possessing' a process, if combined with past/passive, means past (success); if combined with 'unreal', it means (future) obligation.

The other form that has turned into a finite element within the verbal group is the potential form *can*, in the sense of 'have the ability to'; it is cognate with *know*, so 'know how to'. This is now also a modal form, again of the modulation type — in this case not obligation but readiness (inclination/ability).

Of the remainder of this type, most take the perfective form of the secondary verbal group, as in *try to do*. The imperfective occurs only (i) with the negative terms *avoid*, and (with *in*) *fail*: *avoid doing*, *fail in doing*; and (ii) with succeed (again with *in*). (Cf. footnote in Section 5(ii) below on the non-conative use of *fail*.) The difference between *manage to do* and *succeed in doing* is slight; the former implies attempt leading to success, the latter success following attempt. For *try* + imperfective, e.g. *try counting sheep*, see the next subsection.

Once again these forms are related to tense and modality, the hypotactic verbal group complex being intermediate between the simple verbal group, as in *has done*, *has to do*, and the clause complex, as in, say, *by trying hard Alice reached the key*. Examples (and cf. Figure 7-21):

(Alice) | tried +|β to reach | (the key)
(one of the jurors) | didn't know how +|β to spell | (stupid)
(she) | managed +|β to shake | (him out of his helmet)

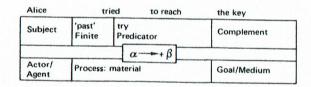| Alice	tried	to reach	the key
Subject	'past' Finite	try Predicator	Complement
		α ⟶ + β	
Actor/ Agent	Process: material		Goal/Medium

Fig. 7-21 Hypotactic verbal group complex:conation

(3) Enhancing a process: modulation. Here the basic notion is that of 'be (circumstantial) + do', e.g. *help to do* 'do being-with (someone)'. As with all instances of enhancement, there are a number of different kinds; the principal ones are set out in Table 7(18).

Here the primary verb is again not a separate process; but this time it is a circumstantial element in the process expressed by the secondary verb. If *Alice ventured to ask* something, this means she did ask it; but she did so tentatively. (The doubtful one here is *hesitate*, which perhaps belongs with the 'projection' type as a mental