

## Verbs in English

Verbs are the most complicated part of speech. Verbs are words that indicate action, existence, possession or mood.

In English, we use the preposition “**to**” to form the infinitive. For example: “**to talk**”, “**to eat**”, “**to change**”, etc.

There are many types of verbs. The verb can indicate the primary action of the phrase (**principal verb**). **Auxiliary verbs** can add detail to the action or help the principal verb (they are also sometimes referred to as “**helping verbs**”). **Modal verbs** add modality (possibility, ability, permission, prohibition, obligation, etc). **Transitive verbs** connect the subject with the object of the sentence. Some verbs only need a subject (**intransitive verbs**). There are also verbs that consist of more than one word (**prepositional verbs** and **phrasal verbs**). Verbs can be active or passive. For now, at this level, we will discuss each point in detail :

### 1-What is a verb?

A verb in syntax is a part of speech which conveys : 1-action (bring, read, walk, run, learn)

2- or state of being (exist, stand)

The word "verb" originally comes from the Latin word *verbum*, which means "word".

A verb can be a word, or a group of words. For example, in the sentence "I will win this time!", the verb is made of 2 words.

The verb is marked by **tense**, **person**, and **number**.

A finite verb is just that: finite. It's finite in time, as in present, past, future, and other time dimensions.

### Inflections and subject - verb agreement :

Verbs are inflected, modified in form, when conjugated. For example, verbs take s, ed or ing in some of its forms depending on the tense and the subject-verb agreement.

### Agreement

In English a verb may agree with the person and number of its subject. For example, verbs take s in the third person singular of the simple present:

Bare Infinitive	Third Person Singular
play	he she it plays
work	he, she, it works

When the verb to have conjugates in the third person singular of the simple present, the right inflection is has NOT ~~haves~~

The verb to be has different inflections:

to be	
I	am
he, she, it	is
we, you, they	are

For a better understanding of inflection and subject –verb agreement the following section explains what person, number and tense are in English .

## Tense, person, and number

### A / Person

Each action (or state) has someone connected with it. In other words: Who? Who is doing it ? Or, who is in that state ?

We call it the "person." There are **three persons**:

- **first person** (the person or persons speaking or writing) :When the verb shows an action or a state of the person speaking, we say the verb is in the first person.

Eg :**I** go to school.

**I** like pasta.

**We** drink water.

- **second person** (the person or persons addressed),: When the verb shows an action or a state of the person you are speaking to, we say the verb is in the second person.

You look pretty.

You sleep too much.

- **third person** (others) When the verb shows an action or a state of someone else, which is not present, we say the verb is in the third person.

He is a good guy.

She **has** a garden.

It **works** fine.

They **sing** together.

Of course, just because we call it a "**person**" it does mean it has to be a real person! The action can be connected to an object, an animal, etc.

For example: The phone **rings**.

"Rings" is a verb in the *third person*.

### b/Number:

A verb is finite in identifying how many people or things are accomplishing the verb-like activity. In grammarian lingo, we call this feature of verbs *number*. If just one person or thing is doing it, then the finite verb appears in the singular. If more than one person or thing is doing it, then the finite verb appears in the plural. Hence, There are two numbers **singular** and **plural**.

**Sentences** in English have a main verb which is stated in a **tense** (simple present, simple past, simple future...)



## c/Tense

In addition to person and number, each verb also has a certain time. When we talk about time in relation to verbs, in grammarian parlance we are talking about *tense*.

Tense is a grammatical category referring to the time of the situation. In other words, when does it happen? Past, present or future? The tense is indicated by the form of the verb. Is it because the verb may be complete or in progress we have 2 categories of tenses in English:

a/We have six major tenses in the English language.

### Six Major Tenses

Tense	Example
1. present	she <b>decides</b>
2. past	she <b>decided</b>
3. future	she <b>will decide</b>
4. <u>present</u> perfect	she <b>has decided</b>
5. past perfect	she <b>had decided</b>
6. <u>future</u> perfect	she <b>will have decided</b>

Six additional tenses enable us to express an ongoing action. These are called the *progressive tenses*, also called the *imperfect tenses*. Some grammarians refer to these tenses as the *progressive aspect* of verbs:

### b/Six Progressive Tenses

Tense	Example
7. <u>present</u> progressive	she <b>is deciding</b>
8. past progressive	she <b>was deciding</b>
9. <u>future</u> progressive	she <b>will be deciding</b>
10. present-perfect progressive	she <b>has been deciding</b>
11. past-perfect progressive	she <b>had been deciding</b>
12. future-perfect progressive	she <b>will have been deciding</b>

In short, English has **12** different tenses, which show when the action or state take place. Sometimes just saying when the action or state take place is not enough. We might also want to mention whether the action is complete, or in progress. This is called the **aspect**.

## Aspect

**Aspect** is a grammatical category referring to the way that the time of a situation is viewed by the speaker or writer; the aspect is indicated by a combination of auxiliary and verb form. Verbs have two aspects: the **perfect** aspect and the **progressive** aspect.

❖ **The perfect** of a verb combines a form of the auxiliary *have* with the *-ed* participle of that verb. The auxiliary has two present tense forms (*has, have*) and one past form (*had*). For example, the **present perfect** of *close* is *has closed* or *have closed* and the **past perfect** is *had closed*:

I *have closed* the shop for the day.

The shop *has closed* for the day.

The police *had closed* the shop months ago.

The present perfect refers to a situation set in some indefinite period that leads to the present.

The situation may be a state of affairs that extends to the present:

They *have been* unhappy for a long time.

I *have lived* here since last summer.

We *have always liked* them.

Or it may be an event or set of events that is viewed as possibly recurring:

We *have discussed* your problems.

I *have phoned* him every day since he fell ill.

He *has read* only newspapers until now.

The past perfect refers to a situation earlier than another situation set in the past:

We *had heard* a lot about her before we ever met her.

In many contexts, the present perfect and the past perfect can be replaced by the past.

❖ **The progressive combines** a form of the auxiliary *be* with the *-ing* participle. The **present progressive** and the **past progressive** are illustrated below:

You *are neglecting* your work.

I *am resting* just now.

The children *were fighting* all morning.

We *were waiting* for you in the lobby.

The progressive indicates that the situation is in progress. It may therefore also imply that it lasts for only a limited period and that it is not ended. Contrast *I read a novel last night* (which implies that I finished it) with *I was reading a novel last night*.

In other words, a verb can indicate any of the following:

- 1) When the action takes place, with no additional information.
- 2) When the action takes place, and that it is in progress.
- 3) When the action takes place, and that it is complete.
- 4) When the action takes place, that it was in progress and that it is finally complete.

**Practice :Choose the correct word in each sentence.**

1. The number of people lined up for tickets **was/were** four hundred.
2. A number of suggestions **was/were** made.
3. There **is/are** a number of important announcements in the bulletin.
4. Here **is/are** the number of milk shakes you requested.

After tense and aspect ,a verb in English also has 2 possible voices

## Voice

Verbs have two voices: **active** and **passive**. The active is the voice that is used most commonly. The active and passive have different verb phrases in that the passive has an additional auxiliary: a form of the auxiliary *be* followed by an *-ed* participle. Here are examples of corresponding active and passive verb phrases:

Active	Passive
loves	is loved
sold	was sold
is fighting	is being fought
has reconstructed	has been reconstructed
will proclaim	will be proclaimed
may have asserted	may have been asserted
should be purifying	should be being purified

The passive is a way of phrasing the sentence so that the subject does not refer to the person or thing responsible (directly or indirectly) for the action. The passive therefore differs from the corresponding active not only in the forms of the verb phrases but also in the positions of certain noun phrases. The direct object (dO) or the indirect object (iO) of the active sentence becomes the subject (S) of the corresponding passive sentence, and the subject (if retained) appears after the verb in a *by*-phrase:

**Active:** *A team of detectives* (S) is investigating *the crime* (dO)

**Passive:** *The crime* (S) is being investigated *by a team of detectives*.

**Active:** *The new management* (S) has offered *employees* (iO) a better deal.

**Passive:** *Employees* (S) have been offered a better deal *by the new management*.

**Active:** *Three bullets* (S) penetrated *his heart* (dO).

**Passive:** *His heart* (S) was penetrated *by three bullets*.

**Active:** *Scientists* (S) predicted *the location, extent, and strength of the earthquake* (dO) with unprecedented accuracy.

**Passive:** *The location, extent, and strength of the earthquake* (S) were predicted *by scientists* with unprecedented accuracy.

Generally the passive sentence does not contain the *by*-phrase:

Britain's reservations on these points were duly noted.

Most of the buildings were destroyed.

The decision has already been taken.

The most common reason for using the passive is to avoid referring to the person performing the action. That may be because the identity of the person is not known or because it is felt to be unnecessary to identify the person (perhaps because it is irrelevant or obvious) or it is felt to be tactless to do so:

He *was* immediately *admitted* to the hospital.

The refrigerator door *has not been* properly *closed*.

Some *-ed* participle forms may be used as adjectives. In the following sentences the *-ed* forms are adjectives, not passive participles:

She *was annoyed* with them.

I am *worried* about Edward.

My teachers are *pleased* with my progress.

These sentences look like passive sentences, but the *-ed* words are adjectives if one or more of these possibilities apply:

### The Structures of Phrases

1. if they can be modified by *very* (for example, *very annoyed*);
  2. if they can occur with a linking verb other than *be* (for example, *became worried*);
  3. if they can be linked with another adjective (for example, *angry and worried*).
- The *-ed* participle form is obviously an adjective in *Many seats were unsold when I rang the ticket office* because there is no verb *unsell*.

## Classes of verbs :

### 1-Transitive vs intransitive verbs

Verbs can be classified according to whether they are transitive or intransitive verbs:

**Transitive verbs** are verbs that require one or more objects. In other words, a transitive verb has a subject and a direct object.

The word **transitive** comes from the Latin "**to go across.**"

*Examples:*

- She cut the *cake*.
- They climbed *the mountain*.
- He gave *her a flower*.

The verbs *cut*, *climbed*, and *gave* have objects.

Transitive verbs	Objects
cut	<i>the cake</i>
climbed	<i>the mountain</i>
gave	<i>her and a flower</i>

Transitive verbs can be categorized into **two types**: *monotransitive* and *ditransitive*:

1. *Monotransitive verbs* are verbs that require exactly one object.  
Example:  
He wrote *a poem*
2. *Ditransitive verbs* are verbs that may require two objects, a direct object and an indirect object.  
Example:  
She offered *him* (first object) *her car* (second object).

### Intransitive verbs

By contrast, **intransitive verbs** do not require an object..

Intransitive: the verb only has a subject. **Intransitive** means *not transitive*

*Examples:*

- They run.

- He died.
- She slept
- It snows.

The verbs *run*, *died*, *slept* and *snows* have no objects. They are intransitive.

**Practice :** Decide which verbs are transitive and which are not.

- Could you **bring** an umbrella?
- Sam **is sleeping**.
- They **bought** a yacht.
- I **read** all his books.
- Let's **go**.
- He **sits** here.
- He **teaches** driving.
- You **promised** to take us home.
- She **plays** the drums.
- The kids **are jumping**.
- We **will talk** tomorrow.
- Her stomach **aches** sometimes after lunch.

**Practice :** *Decide whether the verbs in bold are transitive or intransitive*

1-She **was crying** all day long.

2-We **showed** her the photo album.

3-The doctor **advised** me to exercise regularly.

4-It **was raining** at that time.

She **laughed** at the joke.

5-She **gave** a cookie to the child. They **slept** in the street.

6- I **ate** the cherries.

7-My father **doesn't drink** coffee.

8-He always **keeps** his money in a wallet.

**Many English verbs can be used both as transitive and intransitive verbs.**

Now, what does that mean?

It means that you can use them with a direct object, or without, depending on the sentence.

For example:

- We **won**!
- We **won** the game!

Both of these sentences are correct. The verb "won" is intransitive in the first sentence, and transitive in the second one.

*Nicole opened the door.*

*Suddenly, the doors opened.*

- Will you help us?
- She never helps around the house.
- Jimmy runs a successful company.
- Jimmy runs very fast.

## 2-Regular Verbs vs Irregular verbs:

A regular verb is a verb that follows this rule:

**Past form of the verb = Present form of the verb + ed / d**

For example, **work** is a regular verb because:

**Past form of work = work + ed = worked**

**Dance** is a regular verb too. That is because:

**Past form of dance = dance + d = danced**

We call the present form a **base form**, or **V1** (Verb 1).

We call the past form **V2** (Verb 2).

There is another form called **V3** (Verb 3). That is the form that we use in the Perfect Tenses.

These are examples of Regular Verbs:

<b>V1</b>	<b>V2</b>	<b>V3</b>
help	helped	helped
open	opened	opened
stop	stopped	stopped
change	changed	changed

## Irregular Verbs



An irregular verb is a verb that does not follow the « ed » rule.

For example, **drink** is an irregular verb because the past form of drink is **drank**, and not "drinked".

**Go** is an irregular verb too. That is because the past form of go is **went**, and not "goed".

These are examples of Irregular Verbs:

V1	V2	V3
take	took	taken
buy	bought	bought
eat	ate	eaten
give	gave	given
leave	left	left
am	was	been

The English language has a **great number** of irregular verbs!

### 3- Finite verb vs non-finite

A **finite verb** is a form of a verb that has a subject and exhibit tense and number in an independent clause or sentence. Finite verbs are distinguished from non-finite verbs which do not show a distinction in tense and number, and cannot stand alone as the main verb in an independent clause.

#### Examples

They **watched** the match. - They is a subject; **watched** is a finite verb; the match is an object.

They **are** watching the match. - They is a subject; **are** is a finite verb; watching is a non-finite verb (which does not exhibit tense and number); the match is an object.

#### A non-finite verb

A **non- finite verb** is a form of a verb that does not have a subject and does not exhibit tense and number in an independent clause or sentence. In English, the non-finite verb forms are infinitives and gerunds and participles. Non-finite verbs are distinguished from finite verbs which show a distinction in tense and number, and may stand alone as the main verb in an independent clause.

*Examples*

*They are writing the letter.* - *They* is a subject; *are* is a finite; *writing* is a non-finite verb (which does not exhibit tense nor number); *the match* is an object.

*They wrote the letter .* - *They* is a subject; *wrote* is a finite verb; *the letter* is an object.

#### 4-Static Verbs vs Dynamic Verbs

**Stative verbs (State of being or static verbs)** are verbs that express a state rather than an action. Also called non-continuous verbs and non progressive verb (because not used with continuous/progressive tense),and non-action verbs.

« Listening » is an activity,an effort,a decision ;thus continuous.Whereas, « heare »is very passive,requiring no effort-thus ,non continuous.

Stative verbs have undefined duration. they denote states rather than actions.

Very few stative verbs can accept a direct object

Sub + **STATIVE** + *adj*

e.g. Jack **IS** handsome          e.g. Jill **SEEMS** moody.

#### some of the most common non-continuous verbs:

- **feeling:**                *dislike, envy, fear, hate, like, love, prefer, satisfy, want, wish*
- **senses:**                *appear, feel, hear, see, seem, smell, sound, taste*
- **abstract:**                *contain, exist, need*
- **communication:** *agree, deny, disagree, impress, mean, please, promise, satisfy, surprise*
- **thinking:**                *believe, doubt, imagine, know, mean, realize, recognize, remember, suppose, understand*
- **possession:**            *belong, lack, owe, own, possess*
- **other states:**            *be, care, concern, cost, depend, involve, matter, need*

#### Example sentences:

She **is** a great wife.

He **seems** rather strange.

He **wanted** to see you.

That **sounds** awesome!

We **have** enough things to do.

**N.B** : Stative verbs are usually not used in the progressive tenses.

**Examples:**

**Incorrect:** He **is wanting** to see you.

**Correct:** He wants to see you.

**Incorrect:** I **am knowing** what to do.

**Correct:** I know what to do.

**Incorrect:** They **are seeming** nice.

**Correct:** They seem nice.

However, if the same verb is used to describe an actual action (not a state), then it can be used in the progressive tenses.

**Example:**

When the verb "have" means "own" – it is a state. So we do not use it in the progressive tenses.

**Incorrect:** I **am having** a laptop.

**Correct:** I have a laptop.

When the verb "have" means "eat" – it is an actual action. So we can use it in the progressive tenses.

**Correct:** I am having lunch with Kate.

**Correct:** I have lunch with Kate.

## **Dynamic Verbs (action verbs)**

Dynamic verbs are the opposite of stative verbs. They express a real action that shows continued or progression on the part of the subject.

**Some Examples:**

act, build, complete, design, develop, draw, fix, gather, handle, head, help, improve, interview, introduce, jump, justify, listen, lead, measure, narrate, negotiate, open, orchestrate, originate, outline, perform, persuade, predict, regulate, record, save, show, study, swim, target, transform, travel, treat, uncover, unveil, use, validate, value, visualize, widen, write, zap, zoom...

**Example sentences:**

- They **swam** to the other side.
- She **hit** me on the head!
- **Open** the window, please.

These verbs can be used both in *the simple and continuous forms*.

- Look at her! She is acting foolishly.  
OR  
She acts as a teacher in this movie.
- The company is targeting young customers with this new product.  
OR  
We targeted a new market with that product.

The dynamic verbs *can* be used in the progressive tenses.

**Correct:** He is drinking water.

**Correct:** He drinks water.

### ***Dynamic and stative***

Some verbs can be both action verbs and dynamic verbs depending on their meaning:

#### 1. Be

- be = it is usually used as a stative verb - stative  
He's an excellent guitarist.
- be = when it means behave or act, it can be used as a an action verb in the continuous form. - dynamic  
You are being silly.

#### 2. Think

- think = to express an opinion, to believe - stative  
*I think it's a fantastic idea.*
- think = consider, to reason about or reflect on, ponder, to have or formulate in the mind - dynamic  
*I am thinking about my friend*

#### 3. Have

- have = to possess, to own - stative  
*He has a beautiful car*
- have = when it doesn't mean own or possess - dynamic  
*He's having lunch.*

#### 4. See

- see = to perceive with the eye, to understand - stative  
*I see what you mean.*
- see = to meet, to be in the company of, to escort, to attend - dynamic  
*He's been seeing the same woman for eight years.*

**Practice :** Say if the verb is stative or dynamic

read .....

know.....

play.....

seem .....

drive.....

understand .....

grow.....

believe.....

paint .....

write.....

### 5-Modal Verbs Vs Auxiliary verbs:

**1 /English modal verbs** are special verbs that are used to show possibility, ability, permission, and so forth.

#### Examples:

"It might rain" – shows possibility.

"I can juggle" – shows ability.

"You may sit down" – shows permission.

**The modal verbs are:** can, could, may, might, must, ought to, shall, should, will , have to and would.

#### First of all, what does MODAL mean ?

**modal** = expressing mood.

**mood** = a way to express the attitude of the speaker to what is being said.

#### Examples:

"I can paint" means the speaker believes he has the ability to paint.

"I might paint" means the speaker believes there is a possibility for that to happen.

"I will paint" means the speaker has the intention to paint.

**English Modal Verbs** show us the attitude of the speaker to what is being said.

#### What is special about the modal verbs?

They are special because they behave differently from other verbs in English:

- English modal verbs are used together with the base form of another verb.

#### Examples:

"He might come late."

"You may leave if you wish."

"We must finish this on time."

- English modal verbs have only one form. You don't add "-ing", "-ed" or "-s" to them.

**Examples:**

**Correct:** "We must go now."

**Incorrect:** "We are musting go now."

**Correct:** "They said we could park here."

**Incorrect:** "They said we coulded park here."

**Correct:** "She can help us."

**Incorrect:** "She cans help us."

- To form questions use the modal verb itself, but change the order.

**Examples:**

"He can fix the car tomorrow."

**Correct:** "Can he fix the car tomorrow?"

**Incorrect:** "Does he can fix the car tomorrow?"

"We should start packing our things."

**Correct:** "Should we start packing our things?"

**Incorrect:** "Do we should start packing our things?"

"She will be ten years old next month."

**Correct:** "Will she be ten years old next month?"

**Incorrect:** "Does she will be ten years old next month?"

- To form negative sentences use the modal verb itself and add "not" or "n't" to it.

**Examples:**

"He can run fast enough."

**Correct:** "He can't run fast enough."

**Incorrect:** "He doesn't can run fast enough."

"She could lift a feather."

**Correct:** "She could not lift a feather."

**Incorrect:** "She did not could lift a feather."

"I thought he would come."

**Correct:** "I thought he wouldn't come."

**Incorrect:** "I thought he did not would come."

### **How and when do we use each of the English modal verbs?**

#### **"can" (negative: cannot, can't)**

**Meaning:** to be able to; indicates ability or possibility

- **To talk about what you are able to do**  
 "He is so strong! He can lift that car!"  
 "She can't come before four o'clock."  
 "Can he teach?"
- **To talk about a general possibility**  
 "The weather here can get really bad."  
 "These chairs can be folded."  
 "Such things can happen."
- **To say that something is allowed**  
 "He can borrow my book if he needs it."  
 "You can't smoke in here".  
 "You can pay with a credit card."
- **To make a request**  
**(this is an informal use, "may" is the formal version)**  
 "Can you help me with my homework?"  
 "Can you make some tea?"  
 "Can you come here, please?"

#### **"could" (negative: could not, couldn't)**

**Meaning:** past tense of "can", indicates ability or possibility in the past

- **As the past form of "can"**  
 "He said he couldn't come so early."  
 "I couldn't remember who he was."  
 "They couldn't pass the border."
- **To make a polite request**  
 "Could you open the window, please?"  
 "Could you turn up the heat?"  
 "Could you remind him to call?"
- **To show possibility ("may" and "might" are stronger)**  
 "She could be with her parents."  
 "It could take you months to find a new place."  
 "He could still win, but it's not very likely."

**Note:** “**Could**” is used in conditional sentences.

**"may" (negative: may not)**

**Meaning:** used to indicate possibilities in the future

In interrogative sentences, “**may**” is the most polite way to ask permission (as opposed to “**can**” or “**could**”).

- **To show possibility (it is slightly stronger than "might")**  
 "What he said may be true."  
 "It may rain."  
 "You may win the race."
- **To request or give permission (this is a formal use, "can" is the informal version)**  
 "You may sit down."  
 "May I speak?"  
 "He may not use the car."

**"might" (negative: might not)**

**Meaning:** synonym of “**may**”, indicates possibilities in the present or future

- **As a past form of "may"**  
 "The weatherman said it might rain."  
 "She mentioned that she might come."  
 "We agreed that it might be dangerous."
- **To show possibility (it is slightly weaker than "may")**  
 "He might pass the exam, but I wouldn't count on it."  
 "We might fail, but let's not think about it."  
 "I might visit on Saturday."

**Note :**“**Might**” can also be used like “**may**” to ask permission, but this is much more common in **British English** than in American English

**"must" (negative: must not, mustn't)**

**Must**” indicates an obligation, prohibition (when in the negative) or necessity; it is a synonym of “**have to**” in affirmative sentences.

“**Must**” can also be used in rhetorical questions.

- **To show that you have to do something, for example because it is very important or because it is a rule**  
 "You must stop the car when the traffic light turns red."  
 "You must pay your taxes."  
 "She must stop drinking if she wants to keep her job."  
 "I must go now, otherwise I will miss my train."



- **"Must not" (or "mustn't") is used to show you are not allowed to do something**  
 "You mustn't steal."  
 "He mustn't talk to his parents like that."  
 "The fruit of this bush must not be eaten because it is toxic."
- **To show that something is very logical or very likely to be true**  
 "He left at noon, so he must be there already."  
 "She is not stupid, so she must have known what she was doing!"  
 "They must be really rich to live in such a house."

**"ought to" (negative: ought not to)**

**Meaning:** synonym of "should" although it is less common.

- **To say what is the right thing to do ("should" is the more common word)**  
 "In her condition, she ought to quit smoking."  
 "I believe you ought to apologize."  
 "He was watching TV when he ought to have been studying."

**"shall" (short form: 'll, negative: shall not, shan't)**

**Meaning:** used, like "will", to express the future

The use of "shall" is much more common in British English and is generally considered more polite.

- **Used with "I" and "we" to talk about the future (especially in formal British English)**  
 "I shall leave tomorrow morning."  
 "I'll never forget you."  
 "We shall overcome."  
 "I shan't be late again."
- **Used with "I" and "we" to ask questions or make suggestions**  
 "Shall I close the door?"  
 "What shall we do tonight?"  
 "Let's start, shall we?"

**Note:** The short forms of "will" & "shall" are the same. Therefore, "I'll" in the above example can mean either "I will" or "I shall".

We also use "shall" for offers or to make suggestions or to ask about opinions or preferences.

**"should" (negative: should not, shouldn't)**

**Meaning:** indicates a recommendation or obligation or reflects an opinion about what is right or correct

- **To say what is the right thing to do**  
 "You should be helping your mother."  
 "If he doesn't like the job, he should tell it to his boss."  
 "If you knew you were going to be so late, you should have called."
- **To give advice or ask for advice**  
 "You should try the new restaurant down the street."  
 "What should I do? Should I tell him the truth?"  
 "Should I try to take the exam again?"
- **To show that something is likely to be true or that it is expected**  
 "Let's return home, dinner should be ready by now."  
 "We should arrive there by twelve o'clock."  
 "I should get an e-mail from him soon."

**"will"** (short form: 'll, negative: will not, won't)

**Meaning:** used to express willingness or consent

- **To talk about future actions or future states (not plans)**  
 "I hope he will pass his exams."  
 "She'll be very happy to hear this."  
 "They will not be here on time."  
 "You won't feel a thing."
- **For promises or intentions**  
 "Leave it, I will do the dishes."  
 "It must be Joe at the door, so I'll get it."  
 "I won't do that again, I promise."

**"would"** (short form: 'd, negative: would not, wouldn't)

**Meaning:** past tense of "will"; indicates preference, desire, or intention

- **As the past form of "will" in reported speech**  
 "I will handle it myself." --> "He said he would handle it himself."  
 "I won't be late." --> "He said he wouldn't be late."  
 "She'll change her mind in the end." --> "He said she'd change her mind in the end."
- **To talk about an imagined situation**  
 "What would you do if you were a millionaire?"  
 "I wish he'd take a break."  
 "I would have cleaned the house, but I was too tired."
- **To make a polite request**  
 "Would you mind closing the window?"  
 "Would you get me the paper, please?"  
 "Would someone please answer the phone?"

- **To invite someone, or offer something, politely**  
 "Would you like a drink?"  
 "We are going for a walk, would you like to join us?"  
 "Would you like to meet her?"

**To say that you want something or want to do something**

I would like = a polite way of saying, "I want."

I would hate = a polite way of saying, "I don't want."

I would rather = a polite way of saying, "I prefer."

"I would like a cup of coffee, please."

"I would hate to miss this opportunity."

"We'd rather study with you."

- "Would you like to come with us?"

- "I'd love to, but I can't."

**Note:** "Would" is used to form the conditional in English.

**To sum up :**

**English Modal Verbs Table**

Modal verb	Usage	Example
<b>can</b>	ability	I can do several things at the same time.
	when something is possible	Miracles can happen.
	permission	You can go now.
	informal requests	Can you come here for a minute?
<b>could</b>	past form of "can"	She said she could pay for us as well.
	polite requests	Could you move your bag, please?
	possibility	It could be that he missed the train.
<b>may</b>	possibility	It may rain tomorrow.
	ask for or give permission (formal)	May I speak?
<b>might</b>	past form of "may"	He said he might change his mind.
	possibility	This might fail.

<b>must</b>	you have to do it	You must obey the law.
	it's very logical or very likely to happen	They left so early, they must be home by now.
<b>must not/ mustn't</b>	you are not allowed to do it	You mustn't smoke in here.
<b>shall</b>	future for "I" and "we"	I shall see him tomorrow.
	questions and suggestions for "I" and "we"	Let's continue, shall we?
<b>should</b>	the right thing to do	She should call the police.
	advice	- What should I do? - You should stop thinking about it.
	what is likely or expected to happen	We should be back by midnight.
<b>will</b>	future action or states (not plans)	Prices will go up next summer.
	promises and intentions	It's alright, I'll pick it up.
<b>would</b>	past form of "will"	He told me he would come.
	imagined situations	What would you do if you were him?
	for polite requests, offers and invitations	- Would you please sit down? - Would you like some tea? - We are meeting with Sarah next Saturday, would you like to come along?
	to say what you want to do or have	I would like a piece of cake.
<b>ought to</b>	the right thing to do	You ought to apologize.

**Practice : Write the correct modal verb. Note that in some cases there is more than one correct answer.**

Martha was looking out of the window when she noticed the clouds in the sky. "Wow," she called, "it seems like it  rain."

Martha: Philip! I think you  take the umbrella with you.

Philip: Oh no... The umbrella is too big! I  not carry it by myself. I  rather leave it at home.

Martha: What are you talking about? You  get wet for sure!

Philip: You know, Martha, people  get wet. It's not the end of the world.  I just go without it?

Martha: No, you  not. Janet told her husband that he  leave without his umbrella and look what happen to him.

Philip: What happened to him?

Martha:  you please stop talking and take your umbrella with you?

Philip: There aren't that many clouds in the sky. It  not rain after all.

Martha: You  be joking.

Philip: Well, a man  do what a man  do. I  take the umbrella.  I take anything else?

Martha: If I were you I  be happy to take an umbrella.

Philip: I  like to be happy, but it's too heavy!

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**Practice :Write the correct modal verb. Note that in some cases there is more than**

Martha and Philip were walking down the street when Martha stopped.

Martha: Philip, Look!  you see that lady on the other side of the street?

Philip: Yes, I  ... There  be something special about her if you ask...

Martha: Yes, there is! She looks just like my boss. It  be her.  I go and talk with her?

Philip:  you like to go and talk with her?

Martha: I  say that the answer is "no."

Philip: Well, then...

Martha: No, Philip, wait! It  be her, and she  notice me and think bad things about me.

Philip: Why  she think bad things about you?

Martha: She  think I'm impolite.

Philip: If you are so worried about it, then just go and talk with her. You  introduce us.

Martha: I  not talk with her. I don't like her.

Philip: Ok, so can we just go? It  be eight o'clock by now. We  miss the movie if we don't go now.

Martha and Philip continue walking, but Martha is troubled, "Is it really her? Who  she be?"

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## 2/Auxiliary Verbs (also called "helping verbs") & the main verb :

Basically, **auxiliary verbs** are *function words*, a type of closed class which is constituted of words that have a grammatical function as opposed to *content words*, which are an open class of lexical words. An auxiliary verb is used to add functional or grammatical content to the information expressed by another verb, considered to be the main verb. Auxiliary verbs are also called **helping verbs**

Examples:

- I **am** writing a book.
- He **has** done the work.
- We **will** be there in a minute.
- **Would** you help me with this homework?
- **Can** you open the door?
- **Did** you visit New York last holiday?
- **Do** you like chocolate?
- They **must** get there on time.

In other words, **Auxiliary verbs** are verbs that are used together with another verb (called the **main verb** of the sentence) to express the action or state.

**Main verb + auxiliary verb = complete idea**

*Eg* : **Are** singing

The main verb is "singing."

The auxiliary verb is "are."

**Example sentences (the auxiliary verb is in bold, and the main verb is underlined):**

- They **are** jogging.

- She was sitting.
- We **were** waiting for hours.
- **Is** she sleeping?
- He **didn't** know the answer.
- We **have** gone a long way.
- **Has** she received any of my letters?
- **Do** you smoke?
- **Will** she help?

### List of most common auxiliary verbs

This is a list of English auxiliary verbs:

- *be (am, are, is, was, were, being),*
- *can,*
- *could,*
- *do (did, does, doing),*
- *have (had, has, having),*
- *may,*
- *might,*
- *must,*
- *shall,*
- *should,*
- *will,*
- *would*

### Auxiliary verb or full verb?

To distinguish a full verb from an auxiliary verb, you can carry out the following test:

If the verb

- allows subject-auxiliary inversion
- and can take **not** in the negative form,

then it is an auxiliary verb.

Examples:

- **You are** going to travel to London. -  
**Are you** going to travel to London?  
You **are not** going to travel to London.  
= **are** is an auxiliary verb

- **You see** what I mean. --  
\***See you** what I mean.  
\***You see not** what I mean.  
= **see** is not an auxiliary verb; it is a full verb.  
(The asterisk \* indicates that the sentence is not grammatical.)

**Practice :Choose the correct auxiliary**

- Tell me, ..... you coming to the party?
- They ..... finished the job.
- What .....you do every Sunday?
- I .....like to watch TV. There ..... a good film on.
- She .....not want to stay at home. She wants to go out with her friends.
- He .....called me twice this morning.
- What .....she do in her free time?
- Where .....they go yesterday?
- She .....always wanted to meet him.
- What ..... ;they doing when you came in?

**Practice :Choose the correct auxiliary verb**

- What ..... you been doing?
- Why .....come to the party yesterday?
- I ..... like his jokes. They made me sick.
- Mercedes cars..... made in Germany.
- I .....mad about fish but I .....like roast chicken.
- America ..... discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492.
- They ..... met her in Paris.
- Where ..... going when I met you?
- Is it true that you .....making a trip to Africa next week?
- She ..... ; come yet; we're still waiting for her.

**Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs** that, unlike the auxiliary verbs “be”, “do”and “have”, cannot function as principal verbs.

Modal verbs express modality, ability, possibility, necessity, probability, obligation or other conditions. They are auxiliary verbs used for forming the future and conditional.

As complementary verbs, modal verbs **cannot function without other verbs**. The principal verb is always found after the modal verb and in the base form. Modal verbs are not conjugated and have no tenses.

**Practice : Choose the correct answer.**

Which of the following is an auxiliary verb?

- go  
 take  
 do

Which of the following is an auxiliary verb?



- be
- want
- have got

Which of the following is an auxiliary verb?

- make
- have
- say

**Practice :** Choose the appropriate verb

\_\_\_\_\_ you like coffee?

- Go
- Take
- Do

He \_\_\_\_\_ waiting for the bus.

- is
- wants
- has got

We \_\_\_\_\_ got 3 dogs.

- make
- have
- say

I \_\_\_\_\_ to the gym every day.

- want
- go
- do

They \_\_\_\_\_ playing football.

- are
- do
- is

\_\_\_\_\_ he live alone?

- Do
- Has
- Does

\_\_\_\_\_ you listening to me?

- Do
- Are
- Is

## 6 -Compound Verbs

**A compound verb** = auxiliary verb + main verb.

**Examples:**

was playing, has eaten, doesn't want.

Eg : She *will fall*.

"Will fall" is a compound verb.

**Example sentences:**

- They **were discussing** their future.
- He **didn't tell** us the truth.
- I **have finished** my homework.
- She **will meet** us there.

**7-Linking verbs vs Stative verbs :**

**Linking verbs** (also referred to as **copulas** or **copular verbs**) don't show action like ordinary verbs. They rather link or connect the subject to a subject complement, the part of the sentence that follows the verb(it may be an adjective or a noun that identifies or describes the subject). This complement which contains additional information describes and identifies the subject.

Examples:

- Larry **looks** happy. (**looks** is a linking verb; happy is a complement that describes and identifies Larry, the subject)
- The play **was** good. (**was** is a linking verb; good is a complement that describes and identifies the play, the subject)
- I am a singer.(Am connects the subject *I* with the noun *singer*.The noun *singer* tells the identity of the subject *I*.)
- He is Jack.(Is connects the subject *he* with the noun *Jack*. The noun *Jack* tells the identity of the subject *he*.)
- She became angry.(Became connects the subject *she* with the adjective *angry*.The adjective *angry* describes the subject *she*.)
- Amy turned red.(Turned connects the subject *Amy* with the adjective *red*.The adjective *red* describes the subject *Amy*.)

**List of linking verbs**

This is a list of common linking verbs:

- appear
- be
- become
- feel
- get
- grow
- look

- prove
- remain
- seem
- smell
- stay
- sound
- taste
- turn

### Linking verb?

Some of the verbs listed above can function as linking verbs and also as ordinary verbs (action). One trick that you can use to identify whether a verb is a linking verb or an ordinary verb(action) is to see the relation between the subject and complement. If the relation is indicative of an equal sign (=), then it is a linking verb. Consider the following examples:

- He looks angry. (He = angry | linking verb)
- He looked at the man. (~~He = at the man~~ | action verb)

Examples:

#### look:

- Nadia looked happy. (linking verb)
- Nadia looked at the window. (ordinary verb)

#### taste

- The food tastes delicious. (linking verb)
- They tasted the food. (ordinary verb)

#### appear

- She appeared quiet. (linking verb)
- She appeared in the room. (ordinary verb)

The direct object completes the meaning of the verb, but not every verb needs completion.

*For example:*

- I built last year.

This sentence feels incomplete. Something is missing. What did I build?

To complete the idea I should add a direct object: "I built a house last year."

Now the idea is complete.

*An opposite example:*

- I ran yesterday.

This sentence is completely fine just like that, right? The idea is complete, and the verb doesn't require a direct object.

**Practice : Say whether the verb is linking or an ordinary one.**

- She looked into the street.
- He is the best soccer player in the world
- She was great in her new performance.
- He seems confused.
- They tasted the pizza.
- The pizza tasted good.
- That sounds fantastic
- Look at me.
- These cookies taste strange.
- The bugle sounds loudly.
- He grew tired of running.
- She looks fine
- She seems very pleased.
- You look terrible.
- He will not taste the cake

### **8-STATE vs LINKING**

Linking verbs and stative verbs are two separate categories, but most linking verbs are stative verbs. Linking verbs can be verbs of sense (look, sound, taste, feel, smell, etc)

Stative verbs include verbs of sense (look, sound, taste, hear, see)

Linking verbs can be verbs of existence (e.g. be, become, appear, seem, remain, turn, etc)

Stative verbs include verbs of existence (e.g. be, have)

Stative verbs include verbs of **emotion/feeling**: care, detest, dislike, enjoy, envy, fear, hate, hope, impress, like, love, to mind, need, prefer, promise, satisfy, surprise, want, wish

**mind/perception**: agree, assume, believe, consider, deny, disagree, doubt, expect, feel (opinion), forget, imagine, know, look (seem), realise, recognize, remember, sound, suppose, think, understand

**possession/relation**: appear, belong to, consist of, contain, cost, depend, have, include, mean, need, owe, own, possess, resemble, seem, weigh

ALSO: act, astonish, concern, fit, go, involve, lack, matter, measure (have length), please

In contrast to stative verbs, linking verbs accept adjective phrases, noun phrases and prepositional phrases as complements :

He seems nice/a good fellow/up to it.

It was good/a pen/under the bed.

She became healthy/president.

In contrast to linking verbs, stative verbs have nothing at all to do with complementation

## 9-A Gerund

A gerund is a noun made from a verb. To make a gerund, you add "-ing" to the verb.

### For example:

In the sentence "I swim every day", the word "swim" is a verb. In the sentence "I like swimming", the word "swimming" is a noun. Therefore, "**swimming**" is a **gerund**.

### Second example:

In the sentence "She reads several books a week", the word "read" is a verb. In the sentence "Reading is important", the word "reading" is a noun. Therefore, "**reading**" is a **gerund**.

**More examples of gerunds :** buying, fishing, running, watching, telling, and so forth. The word "gerund" actually comes from the Latin word *gerere*, which means "**do**". You could say this actually makes sense : the gerund describes an *action*, something you *do*.

Gerunds are often used when actions are **real** or **completed**.

### Examples:

(Note how the main underlined verb relates to real or completed actions.)

- She stopped smoking.
- I finished doing my homework.
- They keep on fighting.
- We discussed moving to Florida.
- You recommended waiting until tomorrow.
- He recalled falling asleep on the couch.
- She practices playing those drums all the time.
- John finished fixing the car.
- The job involves dealing with animals.

- Brian mentioned staying up late.
- They suggested not keeping the luggage.
- We started working on this yesterday.

### 10-The Infinitive

An infinitive is the basic form of the verb + "to".

**Examples:** to buy, to fish, to run, to watch, to tell, and so forth.

#### Example Sentences:

"I want to swim."

"They asked us to leave."

"To be, or not to be – that is the question."

"The goal is to win."

The word "infinitive" comes from the Latin word *infinitus*, from *in-* (not) and *finitus* (finished, limited).

You could say this actually makes sense : the infinitive describes an action, but unlike a regular verb, it is not limited in any way.

The regular verb is limited to the tense and subject. For example, in the sentence "Diana danced" the action is limited to Diana and to the past.

However, the infinitive is unlimited. In the sentence "To dance is easy", the action is not limited to any subject or to any time.

Infinitives are often used when actions are unreal, general, or future.

#### Examples:

(Note how the main underlined verb relates to unreal, general, or future actions.)

- Kate agreed to come.
- I hope to see you soon.
- We plan to finish this shortly.
- They decided to return home.
- She promised to stop smoking.
- We agreed never to talk about it again.
- He offered to sell the house.

- I refuse to pay!
- You seem to be disappointed.
- She asked him not to leave.
- I want to drink.
- They need to get up early.

## 11- Phrasal verbs

A phrasal verb is a verb that is combined with an adverb or a preposition. The combination creates a new meaning.

The meaning of the combination of words is not usually obvious from the dictionary definitions of the two words separately.

### Examples:

- **Run** = to move very quickly with your legs.  
("She can run fast!")
- **Into** = in the direction of something.  
("He looked into my eyes.")
- **Run into** = to meet someone by accident.  
("I ran into Joe yesterday.")
- **Make** = to create or do something.  
("He made some pancakes.")
- **Up** = to a higher point.  
("Look up!")
- **Make up** = invent (a story, an excuse).  
("It has never happened. He made the whole thing up!")
- **Put** = to place something somewhere.  
("He put the plates on the table.")
- **Up** = to a higher point.  
("Look up!")
- **With** = concerning.  
("She is happy with her workplace.")
- **Put up with** = to tolerate.  
("I cannot put up with this behavior any more!")

### Some more examples:

- **Get up** = to stand up after sitting or lying.  
("It's hard for him to stand up on his own.")
- **Put on** = to dress yourself in something.  
("Put on your gloves. It's Cold outside.")
- **Fall for** = to begin to love someone.  
("He fell for her the minute he saw her.")

### How to remember English phrasal verbs?

#### 1. Phrasal verb = single meaning

The first thing to do with phrasal verbs is to learn them as phrases and not only as separate words. Try to remember them as if they were a single verb.

#### 2. Group phrasal verbs together

The second thing that will help you is to remember them in groups.

For example, make a list of phrasal verbs with the word **get** in them and try to remember them.

If you find it easier, you can put them in groups of verbs with the same preposition. For example, phrasal verbs including the word **up**.

#### 3. Your own sentences

The third thing that will help you learn phrasal verbs is to make up or write sentences that will help you remember how they are used.

#### 4. Other necessary prepositions

The fourth important thing about phrasal verbs is to remember if there are any other prepositions which always follow them.

- **For example:** "He **gets on well** with his brother."

### Separable and inseparable phrasal verbs

There are two kinds of phrasal verbs: separable and inseparable.

**Separable phrasal verbs** can have the object in the middle of the two words.

- **For example:** "He put it down."

**Inseparable phrasal verbs** must have the object after the two words.

- **For example:** "He fell for his best friend's sister."



Separable phrasal verbs can take the object in between the two words, or after the two words.

- **For example:** "She put her socks on," or "She put on her socks."