

2. Verbs

What Is a Verb?

When we write sentences or clauses, we need to include **a verb**. What is a *verb*?

Verbs are one of the most crucial parts of speech in the English language. They serve as the action or state in a sentence, indicating what is happening or the condition of the subject.

A **verb** is a word that we use to refer **to actions** (what things do), **states of being** (how things are), and **occurrences** (something that happens or takes place.)

Types of verbs

In English, there are several types of verbs, including:

1. Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

A verb that **has a direct object** to complete the sentence is **a transitive verb**. A verb that **does not need an object** to make its meaning clear is **an intransitive verb**.

The transitive verb

A **transitive verb** **must have an object**. Without an object, it does not convey a clear meaning.

- **Example:** He bought.

The question inevitably arises: What did he buy? No one in the world knows the answer to this question as there is no direct object to tell us what he bought. The meaning becomes clear when an object is added: He bought a **cake**. Now everyone of us knows what he bought.

A transitive verb **may take an indirect object**. An indirect object is something or someone **to whom** or **for whom** the action is carried out. **It is called Ditransitive verbs, also known as double-object verbs**, it is called indirect object bcz it is indirectly affected by the verb.

Examples:

- He bought **her** **a cake**. = He bought **a cake** **for her**.

Indirect	direct	direct	Indirect
Object	object	object	Object

- Sarah **ate** **an apple**. (In this sentence, "an apple" is the **direct object** because it receives the action of the verb "ate." It answers the question "what did Sarah eat?")

- Michael **gave** **his sister** a book. (In this sentence, "his sister" is the **indirect object** because she is the one who receives the direct object "a book." It answers the question "to whom did Michael give a book?")

➤ The **indirect object** usually comes **before the direct object** as shown in above sentence.

The intransitive verb

An **intransitive verb** **does not have an object**. Without an object, the meaning is not affected.

- **Example:** She **smiles**. / The dog **is barking**. / Their plane **has already taken off**.
 - ❖ Many verbs can be **both Transitive and intransitive**. They can be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another sentence: examples:

- He **reads** newspapers every morning. Transitive - with direct object "newspapers"
- She **reads** quickly." (Intransitive - no direct object)

2. Auxiliary Verbs:

All verbs are either auxiliary verbs or main verbs. Auxiliary verbs also called **helping verbs** consist of **primary verbs** (**be, have, do**) and **modal verbs** (**can, could, will, might, must, etc.**)

A **helping verb** combines with a main verb in order to accomplish **different goals**. These include:

1. **Changing the tense** of the verb.

- Sam is riding a horse. (**is in the present continuous tense telling us that the action is still going on**)
- Jack has gone with Jill to the zoo. (has **the present perfect tense**. It tells us the action has been completed)

2. **For emphasis:** We can use auxiliary verb **for emphasis**.

- I **do** like you. She **does** mind what you said. I **did** finish the report.

3. **Progressive:** Used to show **the action is in progress**

- She is cooking dinner right now.

4. **Perfective:** Used to express **an action completed in the past**

- She had finished her work before the meeting.

5. **Passive:** Used to show the **passive form**

- The cake was baked by my grandmother.

6. **Question** Used **to ask a question**

- Did you finish your homework?

7. **Negative statement:** Used to **form negative statements**

- He does not want to go to the party.

Primary Auxiliary Verbs		
To be Am, is, are, was, were, been	To do Does, do, did	To have Has, have
1. Forms continuous tense: She <u>is walking</u> home. It <u>was raining</u> heavily last night. 2. Forms passive voice: Her bike <u>was stolen</u> . The bird <u>was taken</u> to the vet.	1. Expresses emphasis: She <u>does</u> like dancing I <u>do</u> want dinner 2. Forms Questions: <u>Do</u> you know the time? 3. Negative statements: Sara <u>does not</u> study Italian.	1. Forms perfect tense: We have been to India He had left home already

❖ **Note that: verbs to form tenses. When they are on their own, they are no longer auxiliary verbs but acting like the main verb.**

- I **am** sleepy. / She **is** pretty. / He **was** tall. / We **are** lost. / They **were** tired.
 - You **have** good looks.
- Does she know you? Yes, she **does**.

Modals or modal verbs are also auxiliary verbs. Modal verbs are used to express: **ability, possibility, necessity, permission, ability, or obligation. etc.**

Modal verbs are used to express functions such as:

- **Permission:** can , may , might « polite per »
- **Ability :** can, could « past abi »
- **Obligation :** should, must « strong obli »
- **Prohibition :** must not
- **Advice :** should, ought to
- **Possibility :** can, could, might
- **Probability :** may, might
- **Certainty:** must, should

The **10 modal verbs** in English include:

- 1 . Can
- 2 . Could
- 3 . May
- 4 . Might
- 5 . Shall
- 6 . Should
- 7 . Will
- 8 . Would
- 9 . Must
- 10 . Ought to

Examples:

- She **can** speak three languages fluently. (Ability)
- "Could you pass me the salt, please?" (polite request)
- "You **should** eat more vegetables for better health." (advice or suggestion)
- I **will** call you this evening. (Willing)
- You **might** like a ride in the roller coaster. (Suggestion)
- We **must** get up early tomorrow. (Necessity)
- You **must not** smoke in the hospital. (prohibition)
- **Can** I use your phone please? (permission)
- He **must** be very tired. He's been working all day long. (Certainty)

3. Linking Verbs

Linking verbs, **do not tell us what the subject does, but what the subject is.** A **linking verb links the subject to the complement**. Providing additional information about the subject. Unlike action verbs, which express actions performed by the subject, **linking verbs express a state of being or condition.**

The most common linking verbs are the various forms of the auxiliary verb **be (am, is, are, was, were)**. Linking verbs **do not take a direct object**, and any verb that **expresses an action is not a linking verb.**

In sentences with linking verbs, **the complement common type (subject complement)** (such as a noun, pronoun, or adjective) typically **renames or describes the subject**. For example:

- She is **a doctor**. (Here, "**a doctor**" is the subject complement that **renames** the subject "she.")
- She looks **happy**. (In this sentence, the subject complement "**happy**," which **describes** the subject.)

Common linking verbs include:

"to be" verbs: am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been

❖ **Sense verbs:** look, sound, smell, taste, feel.

❖ **Condition or Change-of-State Verbs:** "to become, to seem, to appear, to sound, to grow, to remain, to stay, to turn, to prove

Characteristics of a linking verb

➤ A linking verb is **not an action word.**

- He **looked** at me. (It tells us what he did; **looked** is an action verb)
- She **looked as if** she was going to cry. (It doesn't tell us what she did, only how she appeared to be; **looked** is a linking verb.)

➤ A linking tells us **what state the subject is or, what the subject is:**

- She **is** a nurse.

In this sentence, "**is**" is the linking verb, and "a nurse" is the subject complement. The subject complement describes what the subject "she".

- He **was** tired.

In this sentence, the linking verb "**was**" connects the subject "he" to the subject complement "tired." Here, "tired" **describes the state or condition** of the subject "he"

- A linking verb is **often followed by an 'adjective', but not a direct object.**
 - He **feels** fine. (**Feel** is not an action verb because it is followed by an adjective.)
 - He **feels** the fine sand of the beach. (**Feel** is an action verb.)
- A **pronoun** following a linking verb should be in the **subjective, not objective.**
 - The winner is **he**. - **is** (linking verb) (**He** is a **subjective pronoun**.) **Not:** the winner is **him** (**Him** is an **objective pronoun**.)
 - It was **they** who finished the project. It is **I** who made the call.

➤ Using of **adjectives** with linking verbs **instead of adverbs:**

Adverbs modify action verbs, not linking verbs. Using adverbs instead of adjectives with linking verbs will **result in incorrect sentences**, as shown here. Some common linking verbs are **appear, become, feel, grow, look, seem, smell, sound, taste.**

Examples: *She feels sad. (Not: She feels sadly.)*

Note: We can identify a linking verb **by replacing it with 'to be'** and see if it makes sense. If it does, it is a linking verb. Otherwise, it isn't. Let's use the following two sentences and replace the verb **feels** with **is**.

- He **feels** fine. = He is fine. (The sentence makes sense, so the verb is a linking verb.)
- He **feels** the fine sand of the beach. = He is the fine sand of the beach? (The verb is not a linking verb.)
- She **looks** out of the window every morning. - **Action verb**
- The painting **looks** beautiful on the wall. **Linking verb**

5. Action Verb/State Verb

Type of Verb	Description	Examples
Action Verb	Describe dynamic actions or activities.	run, jump, eat, write, play
State Verbs	Describe static conditions, thoughts, emotions, or states of being.	be, have, like, love, know

A verb can be an **action verb** or a **state verb**

Action Verb

Action verbs are used to **describe actions** that someone or something performs. These verbs typically denote activities that can be **seen, heard, felt**, or otherwise **perceived**. They express dynamic actions that occur over a period of time.

- She **runs** every morning before work.
- The children **play** soccer in the park.
- He **writes** poems in his free time.
- I **cook** dinner for my family every evening.

State Verb

A **state verb**, also known as **stative verbs, non-action verb**, State verbs, on the other hand, **describe a state or condition** that remains relatively constant and does not involve a dynamic action. These verbs express **thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, or states of being**. They denote static conditions rather than actions.

- She **is** a teacher at the local school.
- He **has** a beautiful garden in his backyard.
- They **like** to watch movies on weekends.
- She **knows** the answer to the question.
- He **believes** in the power of positivity.

Stative verbs describe states and conditions.

Senses & Perception	Feelings & Emotions	Thoughts & Opinions	Possession	Measurement
be	like	guess	have	measure
feel	love	think	belong	weigh
look	wish	know	own	contain
hear	hate	remember	include	cost
see	want	understand	want	consist

Generally, stative verbs fall into four groups:

Verbs Showing **Thought or Opinions**

- **Know** - She knows the answer to the question.
- **Believe** - Do you believe what he says every time?
- **Understand** - I understand the situation very well.
- **Recognize** - She recognizes him from high school.

Verbs Showing **Possession**

- **Have** - I have a car and a dog.
- **Own** - Peter owns a motorcycle and a scooter, but no car.
- **Belong** - Do you belong to the fitness club?
- **Possess** - She possesses an incredible talent for talking.

Verbs Showing **Senses**

- **Hear** - I hear someone in the other room.
- **Smell** - It smells bad in here. Did you fart?
- **See** - I see three trees in the yard.
- **Feel** - I feel happy this afternoon.

Verbs Showing **Emotion**

- **Love** - I love listening to classical music.
- **Hate** - She hates to get up early every day.
- **Want** - I want some help with my homework.
- **Need** - I need some time with my friends.

➤ **Stative verbs are not generally used in the continuous (progressive) tense** because they already imply **a state or condition that is ongoing and not temporary.**

- She loves chocolate.. (**NOT**: She is loving chocolate..)
- She knows the answer." (Not: "She is knowing the answer.")
- "He recognizes the song." (Not: "He is recognizing the song.")

➤ Some **state verbs** when used in the **continuous tense** refer to feelings that **last briefly.**

- I **am feeling** tired right now. (temporary feeling of tiredness)
- She's **having** a bad day today. (temporary state of experiencing a bad day)

➤ Some verbs can be **both state verb and action verbs.** These verbs are used in the continuous tense when they describe an action.

Examples:

- Stative: I **think** she is nice (belief or opinion, no action happening).
- Action: I **am thinking** about the answer (actively considering something, ongoing mental action).

- Stative: I **have** a car (possession, a permanent state).
- Action: I **am having** lunch (actively eating, an event that is happening right now).

- Stative: I **see** the problem (perception, a general state).
- Action: I **am seeing** a doctor today (going to see the doctor, an activity happening in the present).

- Stative: I **am** tired (state of being).
- Action: She **is being** rude (temporary behavior, ongoing action).

- Stative: She **looks** gorgeous in this new dress. (state)
- Action: She **is looking** at a dress on sale. (action)

6. Phrasal Verbs:

A **phrasal verb** is a combination of a **verb** and one or more **particles (a preposition or adverb)** that together create a meaning different from the original verb.

Components of Phrasal Verbs:

- **Verb:** The main action word (e.g., *go, take, turn*).
- **Particle(s):** A preposition or adverb that follows the verb (e.g., *up, out, on, in, after,*).

Examples of Phrasal Verbs:

1. **Turn off** (to switch off)
 - *Please turn off the lights when you leave.*
2. **Look after** (to take care of)
 - *She looks after her younger brother.*
3. **Give up** (to quit)
 - *Don't give up! You can do it!*
4. **Pick up** (to collect or lift something)
 - *Can you pick up the phone?*
5. **Run out of** (to use all of something)
 - *We ran out of milk, so I need to go to the store.*

Task 1: Choose the correct answer

1. The grocery clerk **will** carry your bags out for you. a) **helping verb** b) **main verb**
2. The mail **arrived** after I left. a) **transitive verb** b) **intransitive verb**
3. That book you recommended **sounds** interesting. a) **linking verb** b) **non-linking verb**
4. I **prefer** cream rather than milk. a) **action verb** b) **stative verb**
5. Jerry **studies** for three hours every day. a) **helping verb** b) **main verb**
6. Would you **take** a picture for us? a) **transitive verb** b) **intransitive verb**
7. I don't want to **fight** about who gets the car. a) **action verb** b) **stative verb**
8. I **have** had this phone for two years. a) **helping verb** b) **main verb**