

Verbs:

A **verb** expresses action or a state of being or links the subject to the rest of the sentence. (Note: the subject in a sentence is the noun or pronoun performing the action of the verb or being linked to the descriptors in the predicate.)

There are several classifications for verbs- action verbs,/linking verbs, main verbs/auxiliary verbs, transitive/intransitive and phrasal verbs.

Action verbs/linking verbs

1. **Action verbs** show action.

For example: He runs. He plays. They study.

2. **Linking Verbs** link or connect the subject with a word that identifies or describes it. (*adjective*)

For example: The book **is** interesting.

The forms of the verb *be* are the most common linking verbs. The verbs that have more than one word are called **verb phrases**. They consist of a **helping verb** and a **main verb**. The helping verbs add tense (present, past, future) forms to the base verb. For example: (will be, would have been)

Main verbs/auxiliary verbs

1. **Main verbs** can stand alone.
2. **Auxiliary verbs**, also called helping verbs, serve as support to the main verb.

The most common auxiliary verbs are:

For example:

- *Have, has, had*
- *Do, does, did*
- *Be, am, is, are, was, were, being, been*
- *Should, could, will, would, might, can, may, must, shall, ought (to)*

For example:

“Tom has run every day.”

Run is an action verb. The subject can actually “do” it.

Has is the helping verb. It helps the main verb run to be present perfect tense.

Verbs can be transitive or intransitive.

1. **Transitive Verbs** require a direct object in order to make sense.

For Example: Bill eats an apple.

Here, **eats** is a transitive verb since the sentence Bill eats has no meaning without its direct object an apple.

Note: Transitive verbs that can take (indirect and direct objects) (give, buy, pass, make, sell, take, show, offer, leave, wish, lend, cost).

For example: The mother bought her daughter a dress.

2. **Intransitive Verbs** do not need direct objects to make them meaningful.

For Example: Tom swims. (The verb swim has meaning for the reader without an object.)

Caution: A verb can be either transitive or intransitive depending on its context.

For Example: He **did** well. – Here, did is intransitive. It does not need an object.

But: He **did** his homework. – Here, did is transitive. It requires the object his homework in order to make sense.

Verbs can be phrasal.

1. Phrasal verbs are made up of a verb and a preposition. The preposition gives the verb a different meaning than it would have by itself. For example, the verb look has a different meaning from the phrasal verb look up (in the dictionary).

Some more examples:

call up, find out, hand in, put off, write up