

## 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*