

Verbs

Verb

Dictionary Meaning:

A verb says what a person or thing does and can describe:

- An action, eg. Run, hit.
- An event, eg. Rain, happen.
- A state, eg. Be, have, seem, appear.
- A change, eg. Become, grow."

In simple words:

The word verb has been derived from a Latin word '**Verbum**' which means a word (part of speech) that in syntax conveys an action (bring, read, walk, run, learn), an occurrence (happen, become), a state of being (be, exist, stand) or a change (become a doctor, grow up old). Verbs always express an activity.

Note: Syntax means the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language, say in English.

Verbs occur in different forms usually in one or other of their tenses. Main Tenses are:

The Simple Present tense

The Continuous Present Tense

The Simple Past Tense

The Continuous Past Tense

The Perfect Tense

The Future Tense (*This topic will be covered under tenses)

Types of Verbs:

There are mainly two types of verbs as follows;

1. **Finite Verb:** Each of the tenses are in the form a finite verb, which means that it is in a particular tense and that it changes according to the number and person of the subject, as in: I am We are You walk He walks.
2. **Non- finite Verb:** means, that the verbs do not change their form according to the tense and subject of the person. There are three types of non-finite verbs as follows:
 - **Infinitives:** An infinitive is the basic form of verb that usually appears with the word 'to' (generally preceded by to). It expresses an action. Example: to wander, to look, to see, to ask. Infinitives are used after certain verbs. It can be used after an object too. Example: 1) He ran **to help** the little girl. 2) She wants me **to train**

It can follow certain adjectives. Example: I am so lucky **to appear** for the international debate competition representing my school and my nation.

- **Gerunds:** Gerund is a verb form which functions like a noun in a sentence, ending in/ with ing eg. Asking. Gerunds can appear themselves, or they can be part of a larger gerund phrase. Example: *Singing* is one of my hobbies. A gerund is used as a thing or an idea. They can function as subjects, direct objects, objects of the preposition and predicate nouns.

Gerund in a subject position: it takes a singular verb.

Example: *Reading* is my favourite past time.

Gerund in an object position: Gerund may appear in object position as direct objects or as an object of a preposition.

Direct objects:

Example: I thoroughly enjoy *jogging*. (jogging is a gerund as a direct object of the verb enjoy)

Example: I thoroughly enjoy *Jogging two miles daily*. (is a gerund phrase)

Object of a preposition:

Example: Danis is in charge *of organising* the class debate (the gerund organising is the object to the preposition 'of').

Example: I am interested *in learning* new languages (the gerund learning is the object to the preposition 'in').

- **Participles:** a word formed from a verb (eg. going- gone, being- been) and used as an adjective or noun (as in burnt toast) or used to make compound verb forms (is going, has been). The participles are formed by adding -ing, -ed or -en to the base form of the verb. Participles are also used to show the time of action of the base verb in a sentence.

There are two kinds of participles:

1. **Present Participle:** it consists of -ing added to the base form of a verb. We use the present participle with the form of to be verbs in the continuous tense. To be verbs in singular form are: am/ is/ are and in plural form are: was/ were.

Example: I *am working* on it.

Example: We *were playing* in the ground.

1. **Past Participle:** which consists of -ed or -en added to the base form of a verb. We use the past participles with different forms of to have verb. To have verb may be has/ have/ had according to the perfect tense.

Example: I *had done* my homework.

Example: We *have completed* our project.

Example: It *has broken* a toy.

Three main uses of participles:

- With to be or to have to form different tenses. Example: She is relaxing / She has relaxed.
 - To form verbal adjectives. Example: A relaxing drink / a leaving present.
 - To form verbal nouns. Example: I don't want your belongings.
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- **Auxiliary Verb:** an auxiliary verb is used in front of another verb to alter its meaning. Mainly it expresses:
 - When something happens, by forming a tense of the main verb, eg: I shall go / He was going.
 - Permission, necessity or possibility to do something, eg: They may go / You must go / I can't go / I might go. Example: She would go if she could.

The principal auxiliary verbs are:

Be	Do	may	ought	will	is/ are
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can	have	might	shall	would	needs
could	Let	must	should	was	has/ have

1. **Modal Verb:** The above explained/ written auxiliaries except **be, do and have** are sometimes called Modal verbs.

The main Modal Verbs are:

can	Let	Might	must	should	was	is
could	may	ought	shall	will	would	Are

1. **Passive Verb:** A verb in the passive takes the object or person affected by the action as its subject. Passive verbs are formed by placing form of the auxiliary verb **be** in front of the past participle, as under:

Examples:

- Our housing loan proposal *will probably be accepted*.
- Many people *were invited* for the Iftiar Party.
- The dog *was hit* by a car.

The Passive verb is often used when the writer does not want to say who exactly is responsible for the action in question. Example: *I am afraid your ideas have been rejected*.

1. **Phrasal Verb:** As we have explained earlier, a phrasal verb is a verb made up of an ordinary verb plus an adverb or preposition, or both. Example: give in, set off, take over, look down on and keep it up.

Note: The meaning of a phrasal verb can be quite different from the meanings of the words of which it is composed. Example: I *give up* on you. Give means to grant but give up means admit defeat or stop trying. Hence both the meanings are different from each other.

- **Transitive Verb:** A transitive verb is one that has a direct object.

Example: Josheen *was reading* a *novel*. Where a novel is a direct object.

The following verbs are *always* transitive:

Bury, Foresee, Rediscover.

- **Intransitive Verb:** An intransitive verb is one that does not have a direct object. Example: *Josheen was reading*. What was she reading is of no concern here.

The following words are always intransitive:

Dwell, Grovel, Meddle.

(Meddle means to interfere in something that is not one's concern).

Many words like "read" are used both transitively and intransitively.