

KINDS OF VERBS

ACTION VERBS

The most common verb is the action verb:

- *Juan walks quickly to the exam room.*
- *The quarterback fumbled the ball after he was tackled.*
- *Teresa thinks the Miami Dolphins will win the Super Bowl*
(Note that some verbs express **actions which are not visible**, such as *thinks*.)

HELPING VERBS (also called Auxiliary Verbs)

These verbs always act as helping verbs:

will	can	shall	may/might
would	could	should	must

If these verbs appear alone, the main verb is understood:

*Who **will help** make dinner? I **will**.* (*help* is understood)

Also, these helping verbs always appear before the main verb.

*I **will go** with you to the beach.*

***Will you go** with us to the beach?*

The second type of helping verb may act as helping verbs OR as single-word verbs:

DO: do, does, did

HAVE: have, has, had

BE: am, is are, was, were

*I **do enjoy** Cuban food. / **Do** your homework.*

*Joe **has finished** his work for the week. / He **has** extra time for going out.*

*Charlie **is getting** married in October. / He **is** nervous about the wedding.*

(The helping verbs *be*, *been*, and *being* will never stand alone as verbs.)

LINKING VERBS

Linking verbs, rather than show the action of the subject, show the condition of the subject by linking it with another word.

*I **am** happy today.* (*am* is not what the subject is **doing**, but what the subject is **being**)

Some verbs can be action or linking, depending on how they are used.

*I **smell** the roses.* (*smell* tells what the subject is **doing**; therefore, it is an **action** verb)

*The roses **smell** good.* (the roses are not doing anything; *smell* links *roses* to *good*)

Some common linking verbs:

be	act*	grow*	remain*	stay*
become	appear*	keep*	smell*	taste*
seem	feel*	look*	sound*	(* can be action or linking)

Notice how these verbs can be either action or linking:

ACTION *The monster **appeared** out of nowhere.*
LINKING *The monster **appeared** angry.*

ACTION *He **looked** out the window.*
LINKING *He **looked** surprised.*

ACTION *You should **feel** this material.*
LINKING *Do you **feel** sleepy?*

ACTION *We must **sound** the alarm.*
LINKING *You **sound** excited.*

PRACTICE FINDING THE COMPLETE VERB

- Remember that the complete verb may be *one, two, three, or four* words:
*Jose **is** smart.* (a one-word verb)
*Alicia **was going** home.* (a two-word verb)
*Octavio **must have been** happy.* (a three-word verb)
*Daniela **should have been studying**.* (a four-word verb)
- Remember that adverbs that come in the middle of a verb phrase are not actually part of the verb.
*He **will do** that.* (the verb is **will do**)
*He **will not do** that.* (the verb is still **will do**)
- Remember to find the complete verb phrase. A common mistake is to find the helping verbs and think you are done.

Underline the complete verb in the following sentences:
(remember that *not* and infinitives [*to* + verb] are not part of the verb)

1. Won't she be coming with us?
2. They don't often sing.
3. She must have often been lonely.
4. Wasn't he being nice?
5. He shouldn't have been jumping on the bed.
6. Isn't that going to make the others happy?
7. Couldn't she chew gum in the class?
8. They wouldn't often have been serious about werewolves.
9. He wouldn't have been kissing her for long.
10. Why weren't they thinking of the test?