VERBS IN DETAIL

Everything you need to know about verbs!
Last year we looked at the following:

- Action verbs
- Linking verbs
- Auxiliary verbs
- Transitive verbs
- Intransitive verbs

Let's re-cap...
ACTION VERBS

express either mental or physical activity

- The dogs barked all day.
- He thought about the day.
LINKING VERBS

- express a state of being
- connect (or *link*) the subject to a word or word group that *identifies* or *describes* the subject

Mrs. Laufs is awesome.
Linking verbs are like the equal signs of language. (=)

Any verb that can be replaced with *is*, *am*, *are*, *be*, *become*, or *becomes* to create a sentence with nearly the same meaning is a linking verb.
We celebrated the Chinese New Year yesterday.

The holiday is usually in February.

1) Identify the verb
2) Action or linking verb?
John looked tired.

John looked through the binoculars.

1) Identify the verb
2) Action or linking verb?
1. The sky looks blue.
2. I walked home.
3. Our teacher seemed crazy.
4. Yesterday was a cold day.
5. She thought it was odd.
"auxiliary" just means "helping"

WARNING: Auxiliary verbs do not function as verbs. They HELP the main verb.
## Auxiliary/Helping Verbs

(sing to the tune of “Jingle Bells” for a handy mnemonic)

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<td>shall</td>
<td>must</td>
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help the main verb express action or a state of being

can speak
may be
has been named
should have been caught
auxiliary verb(s) + main verb = verb phrase

There may be more than one auxiliary verb in a verb phrase.

There is only one main verb in a verb phrase. It is always the LAST WORD in the verb phrase.

- can speak
- may be
- has been named
- should have been caught
Auxiliary Verb or Main Verb?

The highlighted words can function as main verbs or auxiliary verbs. Can you tell which job each is doing?

- I am a teacher. **main verb**
- I am writing a letter. **auxiliary verb**
- We are hungry. **main verb**
- The girls are playing ball. **auxiliary verb**
Sometimes a verb phrase is interrupted by another part of speech, like an adverb.

Example:
- Our school **has always held** a victory celebration when our team wins.

In a question, the subject often interrupts the verb phrase.

Example:
- **Did you hear** Malema’s speech?
EXERCISE 2

Underline the auxiliary verb/s in each sentence.

1. Tom was swimming blissfully.
2. I have been looking for you everywhere.
3. The boys were subdued by the day’s events.
4. What will you do when I’m gone?
5. He’s fixed my car.
6. They’re coming right toward the door.
7. The family were still at table, but they had finished breakfast.
Underline the auxiliary verb in each sentence.

1. Tom **was** swimming blissfully.

2. I **have been** looking for you everywhere.

3. The boys **were** subdued by the day’s events.

4. What **will** you **do** when I’m **gone**?

5. He’s **fixed** my car.

6. They’re **coming** right toward the door.

7. The family **were** still at the table, but they **had finished** breakfast.
It’s all about transfer of action to an object.
The prefix Trans- means to move across or over to the other side.
Transitive verbs have an object

e.g. Mary kicks the ball

Transitive verbs can only be action verbs. Linking verbs are NEVER transitive.
Intransitive verbs do not have an object.

Intransitive verbs may be either action or linking verbs.
Always start with labeling the subject and verb in the sentence.

subject  verb
John  draws a picture.

HANDY TIP # 2

Ask the question: “what?” or “who?” directly after the verb.

John draws what?
Answer: a picture
The children play checkers.
The children play quietly.
Mr. Lopez is baking bread.
Mr. Lopez is baking this afternoon.
Have Roland and Tracy left their coats?
Have Roland and Tracy left yet?
Label the subjects and verbs in these sentences. Tell whether the verbs are transitive or intransitive.

- Melanie ate a baked potato.
- Hector and Tom are reading.
- They painted the house.
- Did you carry his suitcase?
- My plant grows quickly.
Label the subjects and verbs in these sentences. Tell whether the verbs are transitive or intransitive.

- **Melanie ate** what? a baked potato. = transitive verb
- **Hector and Tom** are reading what? = intransitive verb
- **They painted** what? the house. = transitive
- **You carried** what? his suitcase. = transitive
- **My plant** grows what? = intransitive
Determine if the verbs in the following sentences are transitive or intransitive. If transitive, indicate the object of the verb.

1. Some ants fight fiercely.
2. The explosion sank the ship.
3. He spoke the truth.
4. He spoke loudly.
5. Boil the water.
6. The motorman stopped the train.
7. The horse kicked the boy
8. The sun rises in the morning.
9. The watchman blew his whistle.
10. The poor widow killed herself.
11. He took shelter under a tree.
12. The birds sang sweetly.
13. The fire burns brightly.
15. Time heals all wounds.
1. Intransitive verb – fight; no object
2. Transitive verb – sank; object – the ship
3. Transitive verb – spoke; object – the truth
4. Intransitive verb – spoke; no object
5. Transitive verb – boil; object – the water
6. Transitive verb – stopped; object – the train
7. Transitive verb – kicked; object – the boy
8. Intransitive verb – rises; no object
9. Transitive verb – blew; object – his whistle
10. Transitive verb – killed; object – herself
11. Transitive verb – took; object – shelter
12. Intransitive verb – sang; no object
13. Intransitive verb – burns; no object
14. Intransitive verb – fly; no object
15. Transitive verb – heals; object – all wounds
FINITE AND NON-FINITE VERBS

Every sentence needs a finite verb!
All finite verbs have SNoT
Finite and non-finite verbs

- $S$ = subject
- $No$ = number
- $T$ = tense

- All *finite Verbs* have SNoT ✓
- *Non-finite* verbs are incomplete ✗
- Every sentence needs a finite verb in order for it to make sense.
Look at the following sentence:

- The boy loves ice-cream.

1. Identify the verb
2. Find the subject
3. Determine the tense of the verb
4. Number: Is the verb plural / singular?
### Do the following sentences have Snot?

The boy loves ice-cream.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They boy</td>
<td>Present tense</td>
<td>3rd person singular</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We hate Mondays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</table>

The giant crocodile burped up an arm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Number</th>
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This is an extract from a child’s essay. First find all the verbs. Can you tell which sentences are incomplete?

Lying on my back with the sun glaring down from its perch in the sky. A shadow passes across the sun. The shadow of Butch the Bully. Oh, to run away and bury my head in the sand like an ostrich! Panting, sweating, shaking like a reed. I look up at him. He grins down at me – a blotch against the light.
Lying on my back with the sun glaring down from its perch in the sky. A shadow passes across the sun. The shadow of Butch the Bully. Oh, to run away and bury my head in the sand like an ostrich! Panting, sweating, shaking like a reed. I look up at him. He grins down at me - a blotch against the light.
(Lying on my back) with (the sun glaring down from its perch in the sky.)

1. Who lying? (subject) I am lying “my back”

2. When am I lying on my back? (tense)

   • I am lying on my back.
   • I was lying on my back.
   • I will be lying on my back.

*I was lying on my back*
A shadow **passes** across the sun.

Subject: A shadow

Tense: Passes

Forms of the verb *to pass*?

<table>
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<th>Past</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
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<td>Future</td>
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</table>
Non-finite verbs are incomplete and they either need an auxiliary verb to become complete, or they are performing another function in the sentence.

There are two types of non-finite verbs:

- Participles
- Infinitives
2 TYPES OF NON-FINITIVE VERBS

- Infinitives

The base form of the verb before it is changed to show tense and number

E.g. *to swim, to run, to jump*
Participles

Present participles

• always end in -ing
• *swimming*, *laughing*, *running*

Past participles

• add -ed for most verbs
• cooked, giggled
• exceptions: go - gone, swim - swum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Simple Present</th>
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<th>Present Participle</th>
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<td>to help</td>
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<td>jumped</td>
<td>jumping</td>
<td>to jump</td>
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<td>brought</td>
<td>bringing</td>
<td>to bring</td>
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<td>to ring</td>
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<td>to swim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infinitive</td>
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<td>Past tense</td>
<td>Past participle</td>
<td>Present participle</td>
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<td>To break</td>
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<td>gamble</td>
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Need to find someone we connected to they will definitely get in.
With Awesome Patricia and Pauline will always be definitely on the guest list.
ALL PRESENT AND PAST PARTICIPLES NEED AN AUXILIARY VERB TO MAKE THEM FINITE.

Present + past participles

Auxiliary verb
Sometimes infinite verbs act like other parts of speech.
Find the finite and non-finite verbs in the sentences below:

- I was hoping to go for a run.
- Sam wanted to skip the next chapter in the book.
- Martha mixed the whipped cream with the broken eggs.
- For some people, reading is a challenge.