

Verb

Dr.Shobha
Assistant Professor
PG dept of English
JSSCACS

The Verb

A verb is a word which say something about a person or thing.

Eg: Rama *kicks* the ball.

Wolf *killed* the goat.

Sita is *singing*.

He was *kicked* by a horse.

She *will* come tomorrow.

The book *has been* found.

The boy *laughs* loudly.

I have *learnt* my lessons.

Verbs are mainly classified into: 'be' form verbs (Telling words) and action verbs (Doing words)

'Be' Form Verbs

'be' form verbs are (is, are, am, was, were)

these verbs are followed by a noun or an adjective or an adverb. They don't give any meaning of their own.

Eg: I **am** a teacher.

You **are** happy.

He **was** at Chennai last Friday.

It is my pet animal.

They **were** here last night.

These 'be' form verbs are used as finite verbs here; not as auxiliary verbs.

The use of 'be' form verbs

Persons	Present Tense		Past Tense	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 st person	(I) am	(we) are	(I) was	(we) were
2 nd person	(you) are	(you) are	(you) were	(you) were
3 rd person	(He)		(He)	
	(She)	}(they) are	(She) was	} (They) were
	(It)		(It)	

All nouns are in the third person. We use 'is' or 'was' with the singular nouns and 'are' or 'were' with plural nouns.

Eg: The boy *is* in X std.

 He *was* in IX std. last year.

 The girls *are* very clever.

 They *were* in the park this morning.

'Be' is also used in the imperative sentences like;

Be happy

Be bold and fear not

Be calm

Be careful.

Be silent

Action verbs

Action verbs tell what the persons or animals do. These verbs are of two types- transitive verb and intransitive verb.

Transitive verb always takes an object.

Eg: The boy *ate* two apples.

Who *killed* the snake?

He *can drive* a car.

He *is playing* volley ball.

She *will be cooking* meals.

Intransitive verb

A verb that does not take or have an object is called an intransitive verb. Some of the action verbs would function as a transitive verb and an intransitive verb as well

Eg: He is *walking*.

They were *playing*.

She *went* away.

My sister has *gone*.

His father *has become* old.

Dual function of certain verbs

Used Transitively	Used Intransitively
He looked at the picture	He looked tired
Padma sang a song.	She sang sweetly.
They fought the fire.	They fought vehemently.
He rang the bell.	The bell rang.
She walked five kilometres.	She walked slowly
The boy are flying the kites.	The birds are flying in the sky.
We run a school.	We run fast.
I can speak English.	I can't speak aloud.
The driver stopped the train.	The train stopped suddenly.
Many people eat rice.	Wise people eat slowly.
His teacher speaks several languages	The child speaks plainly.

Regular and Irregular verbs

Present tense	Past tense	Past participle
Agree	agreed	agreed
Solve	solved	solved
Accept	accepted	accepted
Play	played	played
Allot	allotted	allotted
label	labelled	labelled
cry	cried	cried
glorify	glorified	glorified
arise	arose	arisen
Draw	drew	drawn
Take	took	taken

Same form

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle
bet	bet	bet
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
burst	burst	burst
cut	cut	cut
hit	hit	hit
hurt	hurt	hurt
put	put	put
reset	reset	reset
let	let	let
spread	spread	spread
thrust	thrust	thrust
telecast	telecast	telecast

Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs are nothing but helping verbs. They are mainly classified into **Primary Auxiliaries** and **Modal Auxiliaries**.

Primary Auxiliaries

The Primary Auxiliaries are

‘Be’ form:- be, being, been, am, is, are, was, were

‘Do’ form :- do, does, did

‘Have’ form :- have, has, had

'Be' Form

'Be' form verb is used with a main verb in '..ing' form to denote continuous action and also used in the passive form.

Eg: I am *writing* a story.

They are *playing* football.

The dog is *eating*.

Coffee *is being prepared*.

It is already *done*.

The letter *was posted*.

'Do' form

'Do' form of auxiliary verb is used in the Negative form and in the Interrogative form of present and past simple tense. It is also used to denote commands and function as a definite verb in a sentence.

Eg: You **drink** coffee in the morning.

You **do not drink** coffee in the morning.

Do you **drink** coffee in the morning?

Shaw **taught** grammar.

Shaw **did not teach** grammar.

Did Shaw **teach** grammar?

Don't you worry.

Don't go there.

Don't be silly.

I *do* my home work daily.

She *does* her work very quickly.

He *did* all the sums.

We *shall do* some help to others.

'Have' form

The '*Have*' and also it functions as a definite verb in a sentence. In such cases, it is used in the sense of 'possession' or 'to own'.

Eg: I *have passed* M.A., exam.

She *has prepared* coffee.

Hema *has been doing* her M.Phil., since last June.

I *have* two pens.

He *has* a son and a daughter.

They *had* some principles.

She *has* some problems.

Model Auxiliaries

The auxiliaries- *shall, should, will, would, can, could, may, might, must, ought to, need, dare and used to-* are called Modal Auxiliaries.

As they express different moods(meanings) such as intention, possibility, probability, permission, obligations, necessity, challenge, etc, they are called Modal Auxiliaries.

Eg: I *shall meet* you tomorrow.

We *shall* do it now.

You *should* look after your parents.(obligation).

I think, he *should* be in the office now.(probability)

I *will do* my best.(determination)

It *will* rain in the evening.(specific prediction)

He told that she *would come* the next day.

Would you help me?

I *will* get a job.(intention)

Can I smoke now?

I *can teach* English grammar.

He *can walk* 10 Kms.

Any one *can do* it.

Could you help me?

Usha told me that she *could do* it.

May I came in?

She *may* become the prime minister.

You *may* come in.

She told that it *might* rain in the night.

You *must look after* your parents.

He *must* be in his room now.



Thank you