**Verbs**

Verbs are the most important component of any sentence. These words talk about the action or the state of any [noun](http://www.englishleap.com/grammar/nouns) or [subject](http://www.englishleap.com/grammar/subjects-verbs-and-objects). This means that verbs show what the subject is doing or what is the state or situation of the subject.

For example:

- He **ran** to the store. - Here the verb **ran** describes the action of the subject ‘he’

- She **is** a creative person. - Here there is no action being done. Instead the auxiliary verb **‘is’** shows the state of the subject ‘she’ as being ‘creative’.

There are different types and classifications of Verbs; some of the most important ones are listed below:

1. **ACTION VERBS**

These verbs talk about what the subject is doing in the sentence. Action Verbs are one of the most easily identifiable types of verbs. To recognize them, you simply have to look for the word in the sentence that answers the question ‘**What is the subject doing?**’ e.g. -

- Rose is **painting** the kitchen walls.

The subject here is Rose, and **what is Rose doing?** Rose is **painting**. Hence **painting** is our action verb.

- My dog is **sleeping** on the sofa.

The subject here is dog, and **what is the dog doing?** The dog is **sleeping**. So **sleeping** is our action verb.

There are two types of Action Verbs which describe the Verb and the Subject doing the action and the Object on which the action is done, they are -

1. **FINITE VERBS**

A finite verb (sometimes called main verbs) is a verb that has a subject, this means that it can be the main verb in a sentence. It shows tense (past / present etc.) or number (singular / plural).

For example: -

I live in Germany. (I is the subject - live describes what the subject does - live is a finite verb).

1. **NON-FINITE VERBS**

A non-finite verb has no subject, tense or number. The only non-finite verb forms are the infinitive (indicated by to), the gerund or the participle.

For example: -

I travelled to Germany to improve my German. (To improve is in the infinitive form).

1. **TRANSITIVE VERB**

Transitive Verb is the verb that needs object and is usually followed by a noun.

These transitive verbs include arrest, avoid, do, enjoy, find, force, get, give, grab, hit, like, pull , report, shock, take, tell, touch, want, warn…

**Formula:**

|  |
| --- |
| Sub + T.V + Obj |

**Example:**

- She takes a book.

- I need a chair.

- They speak English.

1. **INTRANSITIVE VERB**

Intransitive Verb is the verb which does not need object, but it needs adverbial modifier. These intransitive verbs include appear, come, fall, go, happen, matter, sleep, swim, wait…

**Formula:**

|  |
| --- |
| Sub + I.V + (Adv.) |

**Example:**

- He cries.

- They dance well.

- She sings beautifully.

1. **LINKING VERB**

Linking Verb refers to verb that needs subjective complement rather than object and that subjective complement describes the subject.

These Linking Verbs include:

|  |
| --- |
| be, smell, feel, taste, prove, look, become, appear, stay, remain, get, sound, seem, grow, turn, go… |

**a) Subjective Complement can be “Adjective”**

**Example:**

- Your face grows red.

- He looks tired.

- Her voice sounds pretty.

**b) Subjective Complement can be “Noun or Pronoun”**

**Example:**

- He becomes a district governor.

- The robber is you.

1. **AUXILIARY VERB**

Auxiliary Verbs are used to form question and negative sentence, and they are usually used with main verb to form many different kinds of tenses.

**Be** is used to form Continuous Tense and Passive Voice.

**Example:**

- The dog is biting a child.

- A child is bitten by the dog.

**Have/Has** is used to form Perfect Tense.

**Example:**

- They have known me for 3 years.

- She has had dinner already.

**Do/Does** is used to form Question and Negative Sentence in the Present Simple when the sentence doesn’t have a special verb. Moreover, we can also use them to show the emphasis sentence.

**Example:**

- He doesn’t eat meat.

- Do you love her?

- I do live here. (emphasis form)

**Will** is used to form Future Tense.

**Example:**

- People will be difficult to live because of the climate change.

- The environment will become terrible in the a few decades.

1. **MODAL VERB**

Modal Verbs are the verbs that are used to talk about ability, permission, obligation and necessity, obligation and advice, possibility, probability, request, offer, suggestion, habit and promise. Most Modal Verbs can form question and negative sentence by themselves. There are many Modal Verbs as following.

**a) Ability**

We use “can, could and be able to” to talk about the ability.

**Can:** is used in the present.

**Example:** He can play the guitar.

**Could:**is used in the past.

**Example:**My sister could speak when she was 15 years old.

**Be able to:** can be used both in present and past.

**Example:** Last year I wasn’t able to speak at all, but now I am able to speak smoothly.

**b) Permission**

We use “can, could, may and might” to ask to a permission.

**Example:**

- Can I use your pen for a moment?

-Could I ask you a personal question?

- May I make a suggestion?

**c) Obligation and necessity**

We use “must and have to/ have got to” to express obligation or necessity.

**Example:**

- I have got a trouble pain in my back, so I must go to the doctor now.

- We have to drive on the left in Britain.

**d) Obligation and Advice**

We use “should, ought to, had better, and shall” to talk about the obligation and advice.

**Should and Ought to** is used talk about the obligation and duty, to ask for and give advice and in general, to say what is right or good.

**Example:**

- You ought to learn to swim.

- I shouldn’t tell a lie.

**Had better:** is used to express a strong recommendation in a particular situation.

**Example:** It’s going to be cold tonight, so I had better turn on the heating.

**Shall**is used when we want to know someone’s opinion, or when we want advice or instruction.

**Example:**

- I have missed my last bus. What shall I do?

- I’m not sure what to do. Shall I apply for a job or not?

- How long shall I cook this rice?

**e) Possibility**

We use “may, might and could” to talk about present or future possibility.

**Example:**

- There is someone at the door. It may be Sara.

- We aren’t sure what we are going to do tomorrow. We might go to the beach.

**f) Probability**

We use “should and ought to” to say that something is probable at the moment of speaking or in the future.

**Example:**

- Sally should be at work by now. She’s normally there at this time.

- She ought to pass his driving easily. She hasn’t got much to do.

**g) Request**

We use “can, could, may, will and would” to ask for something, to ask for permission or to ask someone to do something.

**Example:**

- Can I ask you a pen?

- Could I ask you some questions?

- May I have some more coffee?

**h) Offer**

We use “will, shall, could and would” when we are willing to do something for someone.

**Example:**

- I will lend you some money.

- Shall I open the door for you?

- I can write this letter for you.

- I could help you to lift this box.

- Would you like me to help you?

**i) Suggestion**

We use “shall, can and could” to ask for and make a suggestion.

**Example:**

- Shall we stay at home?

- We can watch TV if you like.

- We could go to the cinema.

**j) Habit**

+ We use “used to” to talk about past habit which are now finished.

**Example:** Robert used to play football when he was young.

+ We use “will and would” to talk about the actions which are repeated again and again, and we use “will” for present habits and “would” for past habits.

**Example:**

- Every day Jane will come home from school and ring up the friends she’s just been talking to.

- In those days people would make their own entertainment.

**k) Promise**

We use “will” to express strong intention in promises and threats.

**Example:**

- I will be careful with the car, I promise.

- Stop making that noise or I will scream!

1. **STATE AND ACTION VERBS**

A verb refers to an action, event or state.

Action

We can use the simple or continuous form of action verbs:

I **cleaned** the room as quickly as possible.

She**’s watching** television at the moment.

Event

We can use the simple or continuous form of event verbs:

Four people **died** in the crash.

It**’s raining** again.

State

We usually use the simple form rather than the continuous form of state verbs:

I **don’t know** the name of the street.

Who **owns** this house?

Some verbs can be used to talk about both states and actions, but with different meanings:

| state (usually simple form) | action (simple or continuous) |
| --- | --- |
| *I****come****from France.* (This is where my home is.) | *She****is coming****from France on Wednesday.*  *He****came****from Italy yesterday.* (travel from) |
| *She****is****very friendly.* (permanent quality or state) | *She****is being****very unfriendly.* (temporary behaviour) |
| *We****have****two dogs.* (own) | *We****’re having****a meeting to discuss it.* (hold a meeting)  *We****had****mussels for starter and prawns for main course.* (eat) |
| ***Do****you****see****what I mean?* (understand) | *Jane****is seeing****her boss today and she’s going to tell him she’s leaving.*  *I don’t****see****Rebecca at work anymore since I moved office.* (meet) |
| *Your dress****looks****nice.* (appear) | *What****are****you****looking****at?*  *I never****look****at the price on the menu.* (see with your eyes) |

1. **DYNAMIC VERBS**

In English grammar, a "dynamic verb" means that the verb **describes an action**rather than a state. Dynamic verbs are sometimes known as "action verbs."

**Examples of dynamic verbs:**

Eat, walk, learn, grow, sleep, talk, write, run, read, become, go

**Example sentences with dynamic verbs:**

"I can't talk right now, I'm eating dinner."

Present progressive used to describe an action happening now.

"Sorry, I'm out of breath because I've been running."

Present perfect progressive used to describe an action that started in the past, continued for some time and has results now.

"I didn't steal the necklace! I was sleeping when someone broke into the shop!"

Past progressive used to talk about an action that was happening at a particular time in the past.

1. **STATIVE VERBS**

In English grammar, a "stative verb" means that the verb **describes a state** rather than an action.  
  
Stative verbs are sometimes known as "state verbs."

**Examples of stative verbs:**

Love, hate, like, prefer, doubt, seem, know, own, understand

1. **REGULAR VERBS**

Some verbs form their past simple and past participle form by adding *“-ed”* to their base form, such verbs are called regular verbs, for example *laugh—laughed—laughed, look—looked—looked*.   
**Some examples**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Verb** | **Base form or V1** | **Past simple or V2** | **Past participle or V3** | **Present participle** |
| To advise | advise | advised | advised | Advising |
| To allow | allow | allowed | allowed | Allowing |
| To enjoy | enjoy | enjoyed | enjoyed | Enjoying |
| To rain | rain | rained | rained | Raining |
| To smile | smile | smiled | smiled | Smiling |

1. **IRREGULAR VERBS**

Some verbs form their past simple and participle in different ways for example, *buy—bought—bought, eat—ate—eaten,* such verbs are called irregular verbs.

**Some examples**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Verb** | **Base form or V1** | **Past simple or V2** | **Past participle or V3** | **Present participle** |
| To know | know | knew | known | Knowing |
| To go | go | went | gone | Going |
| To drink | drink | drank | drunk | Drinking |
| To hold | hold | held | held | Holding |
| To write | wriite | wrote | written | Writing |

Some verbs remain same in past simple and past participle.

**Some example**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Verb** | **Base form or V1** | **Past simple or V2** | **Past participle or V3** | **Present participle** |
| To cut | cut | cut | cut | Cutting |
| To shut | shut | shut | shut | Shutting |
| To spread | spread | spread | spread | Spreading |
| To put | put | put | put | Putting |
| To read | read | read | read | reading |