

## PART IV. VERBS

Words that express some form of action are called verbs. Their inflection, known as conjugation, is simpler in English than in most other languages. Conjugation in general involves changes of form according to person and number (who and how many performed the action), tense (when the action was performed), voice (indicating whether the subject of the verb performed or received the action), and mood (indicating the frame of mind of the performer). In English grammar, verbs have three moods: the indicative, which expresses actuality; the subjunctive, which expresses contingency; and the imperative, which expresses command (I walk; I might walk; Walk!)

A verb is a word that expresses an action or a state of being.

As you can see from that definition, there are two main categories of verbs: action verbs and state of being verbs (also known as linking verbs).

Because action verbs and linking verbs are strong enough to be used in sentences all by themselves, they are called main verbs.

I love cheese. I turned the page. (action verbs)

I am a teacher. I turned green. (linking verbs)

Helping verbs always help either an action verb or a linking verb.

I will play the piano. (will = helping verb, play = action verb)

I will be a teacher. (will = helping verb, be = linking verb)

Some verbs can function as main verbs or helping verbs, but they will only do one job at a time in a sentence.

I have a cat. (have = main verb, action verb)

I have been reading a great book. (have = helping verb)

I am a teacher. (am = main verb, linking verb)

I am cooking dinner for my family. (am = helping verb)

### Classification of Verbs:

A **verb** is a word which can assert something (usually an action) concerning a person, place or thing. Most verbs express action. Some, however, merely express state or condition. Thus....

1. We jumped for joy.
2. While memory lasts, I can never forget you.
3. This mountain belongs to the Appalachian range.

A **verb-phrase** is a group of words that is used as a verb.

1. The leaves are turning. to be turn
2. The money has been found. to be found

Certain verbs, when used to make verb-phrases, are called auxiliary verbs, because they help other verbs to express action or state of some particular kind.

The auxiliary verbs are....is (are, was, were, etc.), may, can, must, might, shall, will, could, would, should, have, had, do, did.

1. I am writing.
2. We must go.
3. You will fall.
4. He has forgotten me.
5. We had failed.
6. I do see him. I do pass my exam. Do the house/flat

The auxiliary verb may be separated from the rest of the verb-phrase by other words.

1. I have always liked him.
2. I shall soon send for you.
3. Robert was completely bewildered.
4. He has hardly ever spoken to me.

Verbs are either transitive or intransitive.

Some verbs may be followed by a substantive denoting that which receives the action or is produced by it. These are called transitive verbs. All other verbs are called intransitive.

A substantive that completes the meaning of a transitive verb is called its direct object.

In the following sentences, the first four verbs are transitive (with objects), the last five are intransitive (without objects).

1. Lightning shattered the oak.
2. Clouds darkened the sky.
3. Chemists extract radium from pitchblende.
4. The orator quoted Tennyson incorrectly.

5. Look where he stands and glares!
  6. The bankrupt absconded.
  7. The orange sky of evening died away.
  8. The words differ in a single letter.
- A verb which is transitive in one of its senses may be intransitive in another.

**Transitive (with Object).....Intransitive (without Object)**

Boys fly kites. ....Birds fly.  
 The pirates sank the ship. ....The stone sank.  
 I closed my eyes. ....School closed yesterday.  
 Tom tore his coat. ....The cloth tore easily.

Many transitive verbs may be used absolutely....that is.....merely to express action without any indication of the direct object.

**Transitive Verb with Object expressed. .... Transitive Verb used absolutely**

The horses drank water. . ....The horses drank from the brook.  
 The farmer plows his fields. . ....The farmer plows in the spring.  
 Charles is drawing a picture. . ....Charles is drawing.  
 There is a sharp contrast between a transitive verb used absolutely and a real intransitive verb. To the former we can always add an object....with the latter no object is possible.

IS (in its various forms) and several other verbs may be used to frame sentences in which some word or words in the predicate describe or define the subject.

Such verbs are called **copulative (that is, "joining") verbs** .

IS in this use is often called the copula (or "link").

1. Time is money.
2. Grant was a tireless worker.
3. Macbeth became a tyrant.
4. His swans always prove geese.
5. The current is sluggish.
6. Lions are carnivorous.
7. This village looks prosperous.
8. The consul's brow grew stern.
9. The queen turned pale.

In the first four examples, the copulative verb (the simple predicate) is followed by a predicate nominative.....in the last five by a predicate adjective.

The copulative verbs are intransitive, since they take no object. Sometimes, however, they are regarded as a third class distinct both from transitive and intransitive verbs.

The verb IS is not always a copula. It is sometimes emphatic and has the sense of exist.

1. I think. Therefore I am. [That is, I exist.]
2. Whatever IS is right. [The second is is the copula.]

Most of the other copulative verbs may be used in some sense in which they cease to be copulative.

1. The lawyer proved his case.
2. Walnut trees grow slowly.
3. Mr. Watson grows peaches.
4. The wheel turned slowly on the axle.
5. He turned his head and looked at me

"You shouldn't go into the water" said the coast guard. (advise against)- *The coast guard advised against going into the water.*

- 2) "I'll go to France on holiday" said John. (decide, using infinitive)
- 3) "I think you should go to the dentist" Julie said to Tom. (advise, using infinitive)
- 4) "Watch out for the weak bridge" he said. (warn, using 'about')
- 5) "You should apply for the job" said Jack to Stella. (encourage)
- 6) "Okay, Keiko can go to the party" said Keiko's mum. (agree, using clause)
- 7) "The class will start later on Tuesdays" said the teacher to us. (explain + clause)
- 8) "It's a great idea to go to the beach" said Maria. (recommend + verb-ing)
- 9) "Don't cross the road there" she said to the children. (warn, using infinitive)
- 10) "I'll make the coffee!" said David. (insist + on)
- 11) "I'll study really hard for the exam" said Luke. (promise + to + infinitive)
- 12) "This is where the station is" said Klara. (explain, using question word + clause)
- 13) "Right, let's buy the car in the morning!" we said. (agree + infinitive)

- 14) "Don't forget that Lucy needs to go to the dentist" she said to me. (remind, using clause)
- 15) "How about having Indian food?" I said. (suggest, using verb-ing)
- 16) "I'll be early" I said to my mother. (promise + clause)
- 17) "I'm sorry I forgot your birthday" said Amanda to me. (apologise)
- 18) "I'll leave at six pm!" John said. (decide + clause)
- 19) "This is how we use the present perfect" said Amy. (explain + question word + infinitive)
- 20) "Don't forget to buy milk!" said Antonio to Lucia. (remind, using infinitive)

## Classification of Verb

Verb is the most complex part of speech. Its varying arrangements with nouns determine the different kinds of sentences: sentences, questions, commands, exclamation.

### a. Classified by complement of verb.

- Predicating / linking verbs. A predicating verb is the chief word in the predicate that says something about the subject. The predicating word (or predicator) has traditionally been called a verb of action (e.g. babies cry), but has actually been interpreted to include most non-action verbs that are not linking verbs (e.g. I remember him).

- Transitive / intransitive verbs. A transitive verb takes a direct object (e.g. He is reading a book); an intransitive verb does not require an object (e.g. He is walking in the park). Only transitive verbs may be used in the passive voice (e.g. The book was returned by him quickly). All linking verbs are intransitive.

- Reflexive verbs. They require one of the compounds with -self (reflexive pronoun) as its object (e.g. express oneself, wash oneself, and pride oneself). Some verbs may be used with or without the reflexive pronoun object (e.g. He washed (himself) and dressed (himself) quickly).

### b. Classified by form of verb.

- **Auxiliary / lexical verbs.** Two or more words may be joined together into a single verb phrase that functions as the full verb of the predicate. The first part of the phrase is the auxiliary and the second part is the lexical verb (will be, arriving). The lexical verb carries the chief burden of semantic content. The auxiliary verb acts as a helping verb to the lexical verb by adding either a structural element that marks differences in tense, voice, mood and aspect, or that signal questions and negatives; or a semantic colouring such as ability, possibility or necessity (modal auxiliary).

- **Finite / non-finite verbs.** The form for these verbs is determined by the function which the verb has in a sentence. A finite verb is a lexical verb with or without auxiliaries that acts as the full verb in the predicate. It is limited by all the grammatical properties a verb may have -person, number, tense, voice, etc.

### c. Two words joined into one.

- Adjective + verb (e.g. ill-treat, dry-clean). Many of these verbs are hyphenated, whereas their noun equivalents are written as two separate words (e.g. ill treatment, dry cleaning).

- Noun + verb (e.g. hamstring, waterproof). Some of these compounds may represent back formations which have been coined by dropping an -er agent-denoting suffix - e.g. sleepwalk (from the original sleep-walker)

### d. Two separate words functioning as one vocabulary unit.

Such a verb is composed of a verb plus a prepositional form -give-up, over look, find out. English makes great use of such two-part verbs for expanding the vocabulary.

## Forming Passives with Modals

Affirmative Form

Object + may, must, can, could, ought to, should + be + verb3

Question Form

Must, may, can, should, might + object + be + verb3 (past participle)

Something must / can / should... be done by someone at sometime.

They must pass the exams- The Exams must be passed by them

Must the exams be passed by them?

Active : Our English teacher may give an exam today.

Passive: An exam may be given by our English teacher today.

Active : Thomas has written many books.

Passive: Many books have been written by Thomas.

Active : Do you have to pay the bill before leaving the restaurant?

Passive: the bill have to be paid before leaving the restaurant?

Active : Juan can give them some information about the job.

Passive: Some information can be given about the job by Juan.

Passive2: They can be given some information about the JOB by Juan.

Active : You must obey the traffic rules.

Passive: The traffic rules must be obeyed.

### Quick Exercise

Put the following sentences into passive voice. (Modals)

1. *You may forget the rules quickly.*

*The rules may be forgotten quickly.-*

2. You should study the lessons repeatedly. The lessons should be studied by you repeatedly

3. Benjamin must win the competition. **must be won**

4. They should cancel the game.

5. The doctor can't persuade her

6. They need to repair my car.

7. Who should pay the damage?-

### Task 1. Passive voice - modal verbs active:

**Active:** *Tom must pay the bill. Passive:* *The bill must be paid by Tom.*

1. *The children can read books. Books **can be read** by the children.*

2. *Susan has to learn geography. Geography **must be learnt** by Susan.*

3. The dog should bring the bones. The bones \_\_\_\_\_ by it.

4. Tom must open the window. The window \_\_\_\_\_ by him

5. Poor people can not spend a lot of money.

Yes, a lot of money \_\_\_\_\_ by poor people.

6. The pupils must answer a lot of questions.

A lot of questions \_\_\_\_\_ by the pupils.

7. How can we solve that problem? How can the problem be solved?

8. You must not touch this button while the experiment is in progress.

This button must not be touched while the experiment is in progress.

9. We should call the police at once after the accident.

The police \_\_\_\_\_ at once after the accident by us.

10. We must put an end to this quarrel. This quarrel \_\_\_\_\_ an end to.

11. You shouldn't make fun of the poor. The poor \_\_\_\_\_ fun of.

12. The policeman should do a good job. A good job \_\_\_\_\_ by the policeman.

13. The injured man couldn't walk and had **to be carried by** . (carry)

14. I told the hotel receptionist that I **wanted to be woken** up at 6.30 the next morning. (wake up)

15. The situation is serious. Something must \_\_\_\_\_ before it's too late. (do)

16. Do you think that less money should \_\_\_\_\_ on armaments? (spend)
17. People complain about the noise in the street. The noise in the street \_\_\_\_\_ by the people.
18. Children often don't pay attention to their parents words. The parents \_\_\_\_\_ to their words.
19. Sometimes the teacher takes advantage of the pupils' good ideas. The pupils' good ideas are sometimes taken by the teacher.
20. Does somebody look after the child? Is the child looked after \_\_\_\_\_?
21. In some countries people believe that fresh air is bad for sick people.

That fresh air is bad for sick people \_is believed in some countries.

**Task 2. Translate using modal verbs.**

1. Линда, возможно, придет вечером на вечеринку.
2. Фермеры должны работать круглый год. Have to work year round
3. Вам нельзя шуметь в больнице. Musn't
4. Можно мне включить свет?
5. Могла бы я взглянуть на ваш паспорт?
6. Моя жена умеет готовить довольно хорошо.
7. Мы смогли успеть на последний поезд. Can—be able to- were able to catch
8. Вы не должны носить джинсы в школу. Mustn't—have to
9. Тебе не нужно было пить так много вчера. Didn't have to drink
10. Роберту нужно оплатить счет за электричество сегодня.
11. Нам следует найти работу получше.
12. Тебе не следует есть слишком много соли и сахара. Too much
13. Мне необходимо получить визу в Турцию?
14. Ему нужно работать над своими манерами. improve