

Advanced & Post Reading Material (APRM)
EPP- I, 2024-25 GLA U, Mathura
Module-II (Verbal Skills)
Verbs in English-I

Let us have a look at the usage of italicised words in the following sentence

Usain Bolt *ran* very fast.

The sun *will rise* soon.

She *climbed* the stairs.

Sachin *plays* cricket.

The italicised words in the above sentences denote an action. Consider the following sentences:

Ravi *is* an intelligent student.

There *are* fifteen people in the queue.

Here, the italicised words denote the state of being or existence. Consider a few more examples:

I *have* a pack of cricket balls with me.

She *has* a beautiful house.

Here, the above italicised words denote possession. Thus, a verb can denote an action, existence or possession.

Types of Verbs

Main/ Principal verb: The main or the principal verb refers to the action or a state of being of the subject in a sentence. It can stand alone, or it can be used with an auxiliary verb. Main verbs can be classified into two primary forms: (a)

Action verbs, and (b) Linking verbs

Action verbs:

It is a verb that describes an action (viz., sing, eat, walk, run, etc).

e.g. Amit (subject) is (aux) singing (action verb) a(det) song (noun).

Linking verbs:

It is a verb that links the subject of the sentence to another word that describes that subject. The describing word can be an adjective or another noun. E.g.

She (subject) looks (linking verb) charming (subject complement-adjective)

He (subject) is (linking verb) a king (subject complement-noun)

The most common linking verb is- 'to be' and its forms- (i.e. is, am, are, was, were, being, been, etc.), 'to become'-(i.e. become, became, has become, have become, will become, etc.), 'to seem'-(i.e. seemed, seems, has seemed, etc.) Some other examples of linking verbs include: appear, feel, grow, look, remain, smell, sound, stay, taste, turn, etc.

Do not confuse with linking verbs and action verbs.

Consider the following examples:

Sumit always smells like coconut oil.

Sumit always smells coconut oil.

In the first example, the linking verb (smells) describes Sumit (the subject), whereas, in the second sentence it does not qualify as a linking verb as it becomes an action verb here.

Auxiliary/Helping Verbs: The auxiliary verb assists the main verb to establish a complete

thought. e.g. Ashish has (aux) returned (main verb) from Lucknow.

Auxiliary verbs can be divided into two sub-categories:

(a) Primary Auxiliaries and (b) Modal Auxiliaries

Primary Auxiliaries: ‘Be’, ‘Have’, and ‘Do’ (and their forms) are used both as a main verb as well as auxiliaries. These are auxiliaries only when they help other verbs to form their tenses. E.g.

‘Be’ as the main verb vs ‘Be’ as an auxiliary
Sam is a footballer.

Suresh is writing a letter.

‘Do’ as a main verb vs ‘Do’ as an auxiliary

We have done the shopping.

Do you know where my boss lives?

‘Have’ as the main verb vs ‘Have’ as an auxiliary

I have a car.

I have not completed my work yet.

Modal Auxiliaries: These are identified as-shall, should; will, would; can, could; may; might; must; ought to; need; dare. These verbs are used to express the abilities (e.g. capacity, potential, power, talent, etc.), possibilities (e.g. chance, likelihood, probability, prospect etc.), permissions (e.g. consent, authority, licence, etc.), and obligations (e.g. duty, commitment, responsibility, task, etc.)

These modal auxiliaries have three common characteristics:

These are always used with the main verb, which is either present or implied, e.g. He should learn horse riding.

These have a single/identical form under the Present tense with 1st, 2nd and 3rd person, e.g. I can write; You can write, and He can

write. However, Primary auxiliaries have different forms with all three persons, e.g. I am writing; You are writing, and He is writing.

These do not carry the infinitive or participle forms.

A list of primary and modal auxiliaries is mentioned here:

To be	To have	To do	Modals
Am	Have	Do	Can
Are	Has	Does	Could
Is	Had	Did	May
Was			Might
Were			Shall
Be			Will
Being			Would
Been			Should
			Must
			Ought to
			Used to
			Need
			Dare

Depending on whether the verb takes an object, the verbs are categorised into two categories: **(i) Transitive, and (ii) Intransitive Verbs.**

Transitive Verbs: It is a type of verb that denotes an action which passes over from the doer or agent to an object. e.g.

I admire your courage.

She loves animals.

The verbs like-address, borrow, bring, discuss, raise, offer and pay functions as a transitive verb.

There are some verbs which occur with two objects. These are known as Ditransitive verbs. e.g.

We (subject) gave (verb) Ravi (indirect object) a book (direct object).

We (subject) bought (verb) Amit (indirect object) a birthday cake (direct object).

Whereas, when the verbs which take only a direct object are called Mono transitive verbs.

Sumit (subject) told (verb) a story (direct object).

She (subject) read (verb) the speech (direct object).

Intransitive Verbs: It is a type of verb that denotes an action which does not pass over to the object. e.g.

The stars twinkle brightly.

The guests arrived at the hotel in New Delhi.

The verbs like- come, go, fall, die, sleep, lie, awake, walk, rise, swim and crawl functions as intransitive verb.

Note: When an intransitive verb is used in a causative sense, it becomes transitive. e.g.

He sat on a mat (sat-intransitive)

He (subject) sat me (object) on a mat (sat-transitive)