

# Helping Verbs

## *Primary*

**C1** To be

**C2** To do

**C3** To have

## *Modal*

**C4** Can

**C5** Could

**C6** May

**C7** Might

**C8** Will

**C9** Would

**C10** Shall

**C11** Should

**C12** Must

**C13** Ought to

## *Semi modal*

**C14** Need to

**C15** Have to

**C16** Going to

**C17** Used to

**C18** Had better

# C1 → To be

am / was	are / were	] / been / being
are / were		
is / was	are / were	

Helping



- Shows continuing action in the three (past, present and future) continuous tenses

He **was** trying his best, but didn't win.







- In the three (past, present, and future) perfect continuous tenses, shows an action that continued for a duration before another event

I have **been** arriving to work on time since I got my warning.

- Makes the passive form

Aliens **are** frequently spotted near here.

## C2 → To do

- Present Simple  and Past Simple   
We **didn't** run out of milk until yesterday.
- Present Simple  and Past Simple   
**Do** I look good in this dress?
- Emphasis in Present Simple  and Past Simple   
Yes, you **do** work more than anyone else in the office.
- May sometimes replace a main verb  
He may have cheated, but I sure **didn't**.

# C3 → To have

- Shows earlier action at an indefinite time in perfect tenses (past, present and future)

He **has** been to Germany many times.

- In the three (past, present and future) perfect continuous tenses, shows an action that continued for a duration before another event

He **hadn't** been drinking alcohol when he was stopped by the police.



	C4 Can	C5 Could	C6 May	C7 Might	C8 Will	C9 Would	C10 Shall	C11 Should	C12 Must	C13 Ought to	C14 Need to	C15 Have to	C16 Going to	C17 Used to	C18 Had better
Ability	✓	✓													
Permission	✓	✓	✓												
Hypotheticals						✓									
Prohibition									⊖						
Certainty					✓				⊕						
No obligation											⊖	⊖			
Obligation									⊕		⊕	⊕			
Possibility			✓	✓				✓		✓					
Past event, many times													✓		
Future actions					✓		✓					✓			
Advice							✓	✓		✓					✓