**Module-1 (Verbal Skills)**

**Verbs in English-I**

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

a. Usain Bolt *ran* very fast.

b. The sun *will rise* soon.

c. She *climbed* the stairs.

d. Sachin *plays* cricket.

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

e. Ravi *is* an intelligentstudent.

f. There *are* fifteen people in the queue.

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

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

h. She *has* abeautiful house.

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

**Types of Verbs**

**1. 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

**(a) 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).

**(b) 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.

(i) She (subject) looks (linking verb) charm

ing (subject complement-adjective)

(ii)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.

* Ravi feels happy.
* Kiran looks tired.
* This books seems interesting.

# Do not confuse with linking verbs and action verbs.

Consider the following examples:

(i)That soup *smells* delicious.

(ii) I can smell this fragrance.

(iii) This picture looks old.

(iv) She was looking at that picture.

In the first example, the linking verb (smells) describes Sumit (the subject), whereas, in the second sentence it doesnot qualify as a linking verb as it becomes an action verb here.

**2. 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**

**(a)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.

**(b) 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 | Having |  | 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.**

**(i)Transitive Verbs**: It is a type of verb that denotes an action which passes over from the doer or agent to an object. Transitive verbs are of two types.

**(a) Monotransitive verbs:** Verbs which take only one direct object to complete the sentence. e.g.

* Sumit (subject) addressed (verb) the audience (direct object).
* She (subject) read (verb) the speech (direct object).
* I (subject) read (verb) this novel recently (direct object).

The verbs like-address, accept, borrow, bring, call, close, cut, discuss, raise, read, receive, study, won, bring, buy and pay function as monotransitive verb.

**(b)** **Ditransitive verbs:** There are some verbs which require two objects, an indirect and direct object to complete the sentence. 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).
* Nikita (subject) offered (verb) me (indirect object) her car (direct object).

**(ii) 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)