



Tikrit University/ College of Education for women

English Department

English for special sciences

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Verbs

Verbs

Auxiliary Verbs "Be," "Do," "Have"

An auxiliary verb helps the main (full) verb and is also called a "helping verb." With auxiliary verbs, you can write sentences in different tenses, moods, or voices.

Auxiliary verbs are: *be, do, have, will, shall, would, should, can, could, may, might, must, ought, etc.*

Examples

- I think I should study harder to master English.
- I am having a cup of coffee.
- You have been practicing hard.
- It was written by a petitioner.
- You may choose what you like.

The verb forms of *be, do, and have* can be used either as a main (full) verb or an auxiliary verb. The following examples show these verbs used as auxiliary verbs.

1. "Be" as an auxiliary verb

a. Examples:

Used in progressive sentences:

- I am taking a bath.
- She is preparing dinner for us.
- They have been studying all night.

b. Examples:

Used in passive sentences:

- I was given a free meal.
- He was seen by fans at the airport.
- This song has been sung by all nations.

2.

"Do" as an auxiliary verb

a. Examples:

Used in negative sentences:

- I do not know the truth.
- She doesn't agree with me.
- They didn't arrive here yet.

b. Examples:

Used in questions:

- Do you want to have another one?
- Did he finish his homework?
- Do we need to keep going straight?

3. "Have":

"Have" as an auxiliary verb

a. Examples:

Used in perfect sentences:

- I have been following you for a mile.
- We have done a lot so far.
- She had been queen of the town.

Quiz

Identify all auxiliary verbs in the following paragraph.

I have just heard that you didn't attend the meeting yesterday. Did you have a conflict with that time? I must ask that you explain the reason.

Quiz

Which of the following sentences does not show any auxiliary verbs?

- 1) I didn't have any reason to go there.
- 2) Have we practiced this song enough?
- 3) Three seats have been reserved for us.
- 4) I am a professor in the economics department.

A verb (from Latin *verbum* 'word') is a word (part of speech) that in syntax generally conveys an action (bring, read, walk, run, learn), an occurrence (happen, become), or a state of being (be, exist, stand). In the usual description of English, the basic form, with or without the particle *to*, is the infinitive. In many languages, verbs are inflected (modified in form) to encode tense, aspect, mood, and voice. A verb may also agree with the person, gender or number of some of its arguments, such as its subject, or object. Verbs have tenses: present, to indicate that an action is being carried out; past, to indicate that an action has been done; future, to indicate that an action will be done.

For some examples:

I washed the car yesterday.

The dog ate my homework.

I will go to the store.

John studies English and French.

This section describes how the verb forms introduced in the preceding sections are used. More detail can be found in the article *Uses of English verb forms* and in the articles on the individual tenses and aspects.

In referring to an action taking place regularly (and not limited to the future or to the past), the simple present is used: He brushes his teeth every morning. For an action taking place at the present time, the present progressive construction is used: He is brushing his teeth now. With some verbs expressing a present state, particularly the copula *be* and verbs expressing a mental state, the present simple is generally used: They are here; I know that.

When expressing actions or events lasting up to a specified time, the appropriate perfect construction is used (with the progressive if expressing a temporary state that would generally be expressed with a progressive form): We have been having some problems lately; I have lived here for six years; We had been working since the previous evening; We will have been working for twelve hours by the time you arrive.

The use of tense and aspectual forms in condition and conditional clauses follows special patterns; see *conditional mood*. For use of tenses in indirect speech, see *sequence of tenses*. For the use of subjunctive forms, see *English subjunctive*.

The bare infinitive, identical to the base form of the verb, is used as a complement of most modal verbs and certain other verbs (I can write; They made him write; I saw you write), including in negated and inverted sentences formed using *do*-support (He doesn't write; Did you write?).

Preceded by *to*, it forms the *to*-infinitive, which has a variety of uses, including as a noun phrase (To write is to learn) and as the complement of many verbs (I want to write), as well as with certain adjectives and nouns (easy to ride; his decision to leave), and in expressions of purpose (You did it to spite me).

The past participle has the following uses:

It is used with the auxiliary have in perfect constructions: They have written; We had written before we heard the news. (With verbs of motion, an archaic form with be may be found in older texts: he is come.)

It is used as a passive participle, with be or get, to form the passive voice: This book was