

## Lesson 1

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

**Verbs** are the most important words in a sentence. Verbs are the first of the eight parts of speech that we will be studying. Most verbs are action words, but a few verbs indicate state of being or existence. The first lessons will be about verbs, and how they are recognized and used.

**Instructions:** Find the **verbs** in the following sentences. They are **action verbs**.

1. The wolf ran across the sand.
  
2. Sit down.
  
3. The dog barked at the man.

Note: All these verbs are **action verbs** since they show action. **Action verbs** are the most common verbs.

## Lesson 2

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

**Instructions:** Find the **verbs** in these sentences. These verbs will be *state of being verbs* also known as *linking verbs*.

1. My uncle is a pilot.
2. The pie looks good.
3. You seem upset.

Note: These verbs are *linking verbs*. Some common *linking verbs* are *is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been, seem, look, feel, and become*. They do not show action. They just show that something exists.

## Lesson 3

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

**Instructions:** Pick out the *verbs* in these sentences and tell whether they are *action verbs* or *linking verbs*.

1. Suddenly someone sneezed loudly.
2. There are holes in my shirt.
3. He appears happy.
4. The image appeared in the mirror.

Note: Some verbs like *appear* can be either *action* or *linking verbs*. It depends on whether it shows action or not.

## Lesson 4

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

Sometimes a **verb** can be more than one word. When a verb is more than one word, it is called a **verb phrase**. Verb phrases can be two, three, or four words. Verb phrases are made by using **auxiliary** or **helping verbs** with the **main verb**.

There are twenty-three (23) helping verbs that should be memorized since they are used so often. If you will memorize them, it will make knowing and understanding verbs much easier. They are usually grouped in the following six groups:

Group 1: is, am, are, was, were

Group 2: be, being, been

Group 3: has, have, had

Group 4: do, does, did

Group 5: shall, will, should, would

Group 6: may, might, must, can, could

**Instructions:** Pick out the **verb phrases** in these sentences.

1. You are going to Seattle.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. You have been resting too much.

3. We must be early.

4. I will be finished shortly.

Note: These sentences all have what are called *auxiliary* or *helping verbs*.  
I will refer to them as *helping verbs*.

## Lesson 5

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

Some of the **helping verbs** can be used alone as the **main verb**. *Is, am, are, was, and were* can be used alone as linking or state of being verbs. *Has, have, had, do, does, and did* always show action when used alone. *Be, being, and been* can be used with other verbs either to show action or state of being. The other helping verbs cannot be used alone but only as helping verbs.

As mentioned before, it's a good idea to memorize the helping verbs. If you haven't memorized them, take a few minutes to learn them.

Group 1: is, am, are, was, were (linking verbs when used alone)

Group 2: be, being, been (show action or state of being)

Group 3: has, have, had (show action when used alone)

Group 4: do, does, did (show action when used alone)

Group 5: shall, will, should, would (cannot be used alone)

Group 6: may, might, must, can, could (cannot be used alone)

**Instructions:** Find the **verb** or **verb phrases** in these sentences.

1. She has too many friends.

2. You do beautiful work.

3. I was in Canada last week.

4. You are being very stubborn.



6. Go home.

Hint: The last verb in a verb phrase is always the main verb.

## Lesson 6

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

**Instructions:** Pick out the *verb phrases* in the following sentences.  
Remember to watch for the *helping verbs*.

1. I can understand his concern.
2. She must have told you ten times.
3. We shall go tomorrow.
4. The wind was howling all night.

## Lesson 7

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

The use of **helping verbs** causes certain changes in **verb phrases** that we need to be able to recognize. One change is the use of **contractions** (contractions are two or more words combined together with an apostrophe).

As mentioned before, it's a good idea to memorize the **helping verbs**. If you haven't memorized them, take a few minutes to learn them.

Group 1: is, am, are, was, were

Group 2: be, being, been

Group 3: has, have, had

Group 4: do, does, did

Group 5: shall, will, should, would

Group 6: may, might, must, can, could

**Instructions:** List the **contractions** in the following sentences.

1. I've done it again.
2. You aren't going with us.
3. She's staying to tend the kids.

## Lesson 8

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

A **helping verb** may be connected with another word in a contracted form. The following sentences have **verb phrases** using **contractions**.

**Instructions:** Find the **verb phrases** in each sentence. Determine if the verb phrases are **action verbs** or **state of being verbs**.

1. I've done it again.
2. You aren't going with us.
3. She's staying to tend the kids.

## Lesson 9

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

In sentences that are questions, the **verb phrase** is often separated by another word.

**Instructions:** Find the **verb phrases** in these sentences. Be sure to watch for another word separating the **helping verb** from the **main verb**.

1. Have you been driving long?
2. Where was the car parked?
3. Can I be of assistance?

Note: The words separating the **verb phrases** are **nouns** and **pronouns**. This is very common in sentences that are questions.

## Lesson 10

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

Sometimes **verb phrases** are separated by words called **adverbs** (we will learn more about adverbs in later lessons). Adverbs are often used with verbs; however, they are not considered part of the verb phrase.

**Instructions:** Find the **verb phrases** in the following sentences. Are the verbs **action verbs** or **state of being verbs**?

1. You have not helped your father today.
2. I will soon be home.
3. The child had suddenly choked on the food.

Note: The words separating the verb phrases are adverbs.

## Quiz for Lessons 6-10

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

**Instructions:** List the *verb phrases* in the following sentences.

1. My wife is reading in the hammock under the tree.
2. The message can't be altered.
3. Somewhere a party is being planned.
4. Shouldn't I be a clown for Halloween?
5. I've run out of time.
6. Write down as many of the twenty-three helping verbs as you can.

## **Extra Credit:**

1. What are the 5 helping verbs that can be used alone as state of being verbs?
2. What are the 6 helping verbs that always show action when used alone?
3. What are the 3 helping verbs that can show action or state of being?
4. Name the remaining helping verbs that cannot be used alone. Hint: Group 5 & 6.

Need help? The answers to the extra credit questions can be found in Lesson 5.

## Lesson 11

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

*Not* and its contracted form *n't* are never part of the **verb phrase**.

**Instructions:** Pick out the **verb phrases** in these sentences.

1. The game will not be finished for another hour.
2. The horse shouldn't have been worked so much.
3. Wouldn't you give me another chance?

Hint: **Verb phrases** can have one, two, or three helping verbs in them.

## Lesson 12

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

**Verb phrases** with two or more **helping verbs** always keep a definite order. Most helping verbs can combine with other helping verbs but will not combine with all of them.

Examples of good combinations:

*is being said*

*has been said*

*will be said*

*could have been said*

*may have said*

*had been said*

**Instructions:** Arrange the following **helping verbs** with the word in parentheses into a **verb phrase**. One of the helping verbs will not combine and must be left out.

Example:

was, have, may (*gone*) = ***may have gone***

- "was" will not combine in this group

1. am, will, being (*fired*)

2. been, could, does, have (*learning*)

3. might, do, have, been (*sleeping*)

4. must, were, be (*discovered*)

5. be, has, should (*sold*)

## Lesson 13

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

We can change the form of a **verb**. (These changes in form are used in conjugations. We will talk about conjugations in later lessons.) For example, a verb can have an s added to it as in *eat, eats* or *run, runs*. Other changes could be *eating, ate, or eaten* for the verb *eat*. *Run* could be changed to *running, or ran*. Irregular verbs which we will cover later have several confusing changes.

**Instructions:** Find the **verb** or **verb phrases** in these sentences. Take note of the different verb forms for *come* and *sent*.

1. I am coming in the morning.
2. I came as soon as possible.
3. She comes by every day.
4. Send me the package in the mail.
5. The new part was sent to me.

6. I am sending Jeff with the neighbors.

## Lesson 14

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

**Instructions:** Find the *verb phrases* in each sentence. Then pick out the *helping verbs* used in the verb phrases.

1. He should have tried again.
2. The dog had suddenly come into the yard.
3. Has anyone taken out the trash?
4. Could they have been pointing at our car?
5. She's hoping for a call from her sister.

## Lesson 15

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

It's time to review what we have learned. Remember that **verbs** either show *action* or *state of being*. Using *helping verbs*, we make **verb phrases**.

Verb phrases may be separated by other words. Verb phrases follow a definite order and change form.

**Instructions:** Find the **verb phrases** and tell what kind of verbs they are.

1. I can understand your concern.
2. Is Mrs. Johanson going with you?
3. The rooms cannot be held any longer.
4. I haven't seen him for an hour.

## Quiz for Lessons 1-15

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

**Instructions:** Answer each question *true* or *false*.

1. Verbs never change form.
2. A verb is never just one word.
3. Verb phrases keep a definite order.
4. There are twenty-three helping verbs.
5. Helping verbs cannot be the main verb.
6. Helping verbs can be action verbs.
7. Verb phrases can have three helping verbs.

8. Verbs can be in contracted form.

9. State of being verbs show action.

10. Verbs are the most important words in a sentence.