

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.

The wolf *ran* across the sand.

2. Sit down.

Sit down.

3. The dog barked at the man.

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.

My uncle *is* a pilot.

2. The pie looks good.

The pie *looks* good.

3. You seem upset.

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.

Suddenly someone *sneezed* loudly.

- *action verb*

2. There are holes in my shirt.

There *are* holes in my shirt.

- *linking verb*

3. He appears happy.

He *appears* happy.

- *linking verb*

4. The image appeared in the mirror.

The image *appeared* in the mirror.

- *action verb*

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.

You *are going* to Seattle.

2. You have been resting too much.

You *have been resting* too much.

3. We must be early.

We *must be* early.

4. I will be finished shortly.

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.

She **has** too many friends.

- *action verb*

2. You do beautiful work.

You **do** beautiful work.

- *action verb*

3. I was in Canada last week.

I **was** in Canada last week.

- *linking verb*

4. You are being very stubborn.

You **are being** very stubborn.

- *linking verbs*

Quiz for Lessons 1-5

Parts of Speech - Verbs

Instructions: List the *verbs* or *verb phrases* in the sentences, and tell whether they are *action verbs* or *linking verbs*. For extra credit, find the *helping verbs*.

1. Jim plays basketball.

Jim *plays* basketball.

-- *action verb*

2. They will return on the airplane.

They *will return* on the airplane.

-- *action verbs*

will - helping verb

return - main verb

3. Badger is a funny dog.

Badger *is* a funny dog.

-- *linking verb*

4. I have been here a long time.

I *have been* here a long time.

-- *linking verbs*

have - helping verb

been - main verb

5. I should have been playing the drum.

I *should have been playing* the drum.

-- *action verbs*

should have been - helping verbs

playing - main verb

6. Go home.

Go home.

-- *action verb*

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.

I *can understand* his concern.

2. She must have told you ten times.

She *must have told* you ten times.

3. We shall go tomorrow.

We *shall go* tomorrow.

4. The wind was howling all night.

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.

I've done it again.

2. You aren't going with us.

You *aren't* going with us.

3. She's staying to tend the kids.

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.

I **'ve done** it again.

- *action verbs*

2. You aren't going with us.

You **aren't going** with us.

- *action verbs*

3. She's staying to tend the kids.

She **'s staying** to tend the kids.

- *action verbs*

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?

Have you **been driving** long?

- *action verbs*

2. Where was the car parked?

Where **was** the car **parked**?

- *action verbs*

3. Can I be of assistance?

Can I **be** of assistance?

- *state of being verbs*

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.

You **have** not **helped** your father today.
- *action verbs*

2. I will soon be home.

I **will** soon **be** home.
- *state of being verbs*

3. The child had suddenly choked on the food.

The child **had** suddenly **choked** on the food.
- *action verbs*

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.

My wife *is reading* in the hammock under the tree.

2. The message can't be altered.

The message *can't be altered*.

3. Somewhere a party is being planned.

Somewhere a party *is being planned*.

4. Shouldn't I be a clown for Halloween?

Shouldn't I be a clown for Halloween?

5. I've run out of time.

I've (have) run out of time.

6. Write down as many of the twenty-three helping verbs as you can.

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*

Extra Credit:

1. What are the 5 helping verbs that can be used alone as state of being verbs?

is, am, are, was, and were

2. What are the 6 helping verbs that always show action when used alone?

has, have, had, do, does, and did

3. What are the 3 helping verbs that can show action or state of being?

be, being, and been

4. Name the remaining helping verbs that cannot be used alone. Hint: Group 5 & 6.

shall, will, should, would, may, might, must, can, and could

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.

The game **will** not **be finished** for another hour.

2. The horse shouldn't have been worked so much.

The horse **shouldn't have been worked** so much.

3. Wouldn't you give me another chance?

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*)

am being fired

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

could have been learning

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

might have been sleeping

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

must be discovered

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

should be 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.

I **am coming** in the morning.

2. I came as soon as possible.

I **came** as soon as possible.

3. She comes by every day.

She **comes** by every day.

4. Send me the package in the mail.

Send me the package in the mail.

5. The new part was sent to me.

The new part **was sent** to me.

6. I am sending Jeff with the neighbors.

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.

He *should have tried* again.

should have - helping verbs

2. The dog had suddenly come into the yard.

The dog *had* suddenly *come* into the yard.

had - helping verb

3. Has anyone taken out the trash?

Has anyone *taken* out the trash?

has - helping verb

4. Could they have been pointing at our car?

Could they *have been pointing* at our car?

could have been - helping verbs

5. She's hoping for a call from her sister.

She's *hoping* for a call from her sister.

's (*is*) - helping verb

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.

I **can understand** your concern.

- *action verbs*

2. Is Mrs. Johanson going with you?

Is Mrs. Johanson **going** with you?

- *action verbs*

3. The rooms cannot be held any longer.

The rooms **cannot be held** any longer.

- *action verbs*

4. I haven't seen him for an hour.

I **haven't seen** him for an hour.

- *action verbs*

Quiz for Lessons 1-15

Parts of Speech - Verbs

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

1. Verbs never change form.

False (Lesson 13)

2. A verb is never just one word.

False (Lesson 4)

3. Verb phrases keep a definite order.

True (Lesson 12)

4. There are twenty-three helping verbs.

True (Lesson 4)

5. Helping verbs cannot be the main verb.

False (Lesson 5)

6. Helping verbs can be action verbs.

True (Lesson 5)

7. Verb phrases can have three helping verbs.

True (Lesson 4)

8. Verbs can be in contracted form.

True (Lesson 8)

9. State of being verbs show action.

False (Lesson 1)

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

True (Lesson 1)