

# Verb

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### This lesson will help you to:-

- ❖ Understand various types of Verbs.
- ❖ Examine uses of Verbs.
- ❖ Study Modals Auxiliaries.
- ❖ Study application of Verbs, Modals Auxiliaries.

## QUICK CONCEPT REVIEW

Verbs are important elements of language and grammar. As our life is full of movements so verbs become an integral part of our speech, conversation and writing mode. Verbs determine the position and action of nouns and pronouns.

## VERBS EXPRESS ACTIONS

Verbs are doing words. A verb can express:

- ❖ A physical action (e.g. to swim, to write, to climb).
- ❖ A mental action (e.g. to think, to guess, to consider).
- ❖ A state of being (e.g. to be, to exist, to appear)

The verbs which express a state of being are the ones which take a little practice to spot, but, actually, they are the most common. The most common verb is the verb to be. That's the one which goes:

Subject	Verb to be in the past tense	Verb to be in the present tense	Verb to be in the future tense
I	was	am	will be
You	were	are	will be
He / She / It	was	is	will be
We	were	are	will be
You	were	are	will be
They	were	are	will be

## LOTS OF VERB EXPRESS PHYSICAL ACTIONS

Here are some sentences with the verbs highlighted. (These verbs express physical actions.)

### Examples:

- ❖ She sell leather bags.  
(In this example, the word sells is a verb. It express the physical activity to sell.)
- ❖ The doctor wrote the prescription.  
(In this example, the word wrote is a verb. It expresses the physical activity to write.)
- ❖ Alison bought a ticket.  
(The word bought is a verb. It expresses the physical activity to buy.)

## VERBS EXPRESS MENTAL ACTIONS TOO

As discussed in the beginning, verbs not only express physical actions like the ones above, they can express mental actions too:

### Examples:

- ❖ She considers the job done.  
(The word considers is a verb. It expresses the mental activity to consider.)
- ❖ Peter guessed the right number.  
(The word guessed is a verb. It expresses the mental activity to guess.)
- ❖ I thought the same thing.  
(The word thought is a verb. It express the mental activity to think.)

## VERBS EXPRESS A STATE OF BEING

A small, but extremely important, group of verbs do not express any activity at all. The most important verb in this group- arguably of all- is the verb to be. As already mentioned, this is seen in forms like are, were, was, will be, etc.

### Examples:

- ❖ Edwina is the largest elephant in this area.  
(The word "is" is a verb from the verb to be.)
- ❖ It was a joke.  
(The word was is a verb from the verb to be.)
- ❖ I am.  
(The word am is a verb from the verb to be.)  
(Point of interest: I am is the shortest sentence in English.)

### Real-Life Example

Modal verbs, to you, means building upon the knowledge you already have. While most of you are able to explain what most verbs do, such as convey action, movement or behaviour, modal verbs might seem more mysterious. Modal verbs which convey an attitude or mood. They include can, could, will, would, may, might, must, shall, should and ought. Modal verbs act differently than other verbs in English. They do not take the letter "s" at their ends in the third person singular in the present tense. The word "not" is placed before them to form their negatives, and they are not used in the past and future tenses. Write a short paragraph could be "What I Could and Should Be Doing Right Now." A sentence in your paragraph that uses modals might be. "I should be doing my homework right now, but I might go to the party instead."

### Now read these sentences:

1. The soldiers fight with the sword.
2. The soldiers fight bravely.

In sentence 1. the action denoted by the verb 'fight' passes over from the doer or subject 'soldiers' to some object 'sword'. The verb 'fight' is, therefore, called a Transitive verb. (Transitive means 'passing over')

In sentence 2, the action denoted by the verb 'fight' stops with the doer or subject 'soldiers' and does not pass over to an object. The verb 'fight' is, therefore, called an Intransitive verb. (Intransitive means 'not passing over')

Definition: A Transitive verb is a verb that denotes an action which passes over from the doer or subject to an object.

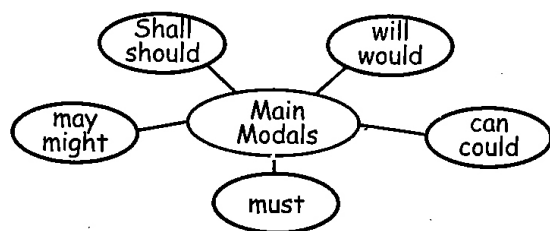
Definition: An Intransitive verb is a verb that denotes an action which does not pass over to an object, or which expresses a state or being; eg. He ran a long distance (action). The baby sleeps (state). There is a flaw in this diamond (being). (Intransitive verbs expressing 'being' take the same cases after them as before them.)

Most Transitive verbs take a single object. But such Transitive verbs as give, ask, offer, promise, tell, etc., take two objects after them —an Indirect object which denotes the 'person to whom' something is given or 'for whom' something is done, and a Direct object which is usually the name of some 'thing', as, His father gave him (indirect) a rupee (direct). He told me (indirect) a secret (direct).

Most verbs can be used both transitively and intransitively. E.g. The iceberg sank the ship. The driver stopped the truck. He spoke the truth. (Used Transitively). The ship sank rapidly. The truck stopped suddenly. He spoke haughtily. (Used Intransitively). But there are some verbs. E.g. Come, go, fall, die, sleep, lie denote actions which cannot be done to anything; they can never be used transitively.

## MODAL AUXILIARIES

An auxiliary is a 'helping verb', used to make the form of another verb. The auxiliaries 'can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must, ought, used, need, dare are often distinguished by being referred to as modal auxiliaries or modals. We can express conceptions of the mind as ability (e.g. can, could), possibility (e.g. may, might), permission (e.g. may, might, can, could) and obligation (must, ought, have to).



## CAN, COULD, MAY, MIGHT

CAN usually expresses ability or capacity; e.g.-i can swim across the river. Can you lift this box?

MAY is used to express permission; e.g.-You may go now. May I borrow your book?

COULD and MIGHT are used as the past equivalent of Can and May; e.g. —I could swim across the river when I was young (ability), I thought he might be at home (possibility).

## SHALL, SHOULD, WILL, WOULD

SHALL is used in the first person and WILL in the second person and third person to express pure future; e.g. I shall be nineteen next birthday. Tomorrow will be a holiday.

SHALL is used in the second and third persons to express a command, a promise or threat; e.g. He shall return me the money by next Monday (command). You shall get the bonus tomorrow (promise). They shall be punished for this crime (threat).

SHALL is used in the second and third persons to ask after the will of the person addressed; e.g. Shall I open the window?

WILL is used to express:

- (a) Willingness: as- I will try to do better the next time.
- (b) Characteristic habit: as- They will sit for hours to watch the cricket.
- (c) Assumption or probability: as- This will be the shirt you want, I suppose.

WILL you? indicates an invitation or request; as- Will you lend me your book?

SHOULD and WOULD are used as the past equivalents of shall and will: as-I expected that I should / would get a first class.

SHOULD is used in all persons to express duty or obligation: as- You should keep your promise.

## MUST Expresses:

- (a) Necessity or obligation: as-One must work or will starve.
  - (b) Fixed determination: as-I must have my way in this matter.
- Important verb charts on nouns, adjectives and animal sounds.

## A. FORMATION OF VERBS FROM NOUNS

Nouns	Verbs
authority	authorize
courage	encourage
fright	frighten
body	embody
electricity	electrify
habit	habituate
mind	remind
title	entitle
prison	imprison
system	systematize

## B. FORMATION OF VERBS FROM ADJECTIVES

Adjectives	Verbs
certain	ascertain
different	differentiate
familiar	familiarize
abundant	abound
clean	clarify
moist	moisten
popular	popularize
thick	thicken
long	lengthen
broad	broaden

## C. SOUND IDENTIFICATION

Animals	Sound
asses	bray
cows	bleat
bulls	bellow
frogs	croak
apes	gibber
birds	twitter
ducks	quack
elephants	trumpet
mice	squeak
tigers	growl
wolves	howl
lions	roar
peacocks	scream
hyena	laugh
horses	neigh

Objects	Sound
glass	tinkles
plates	rattle
clouds	thunder
watches	tick
shoes	creak
sails	flutter
doors	bang
rain	patters
brakes	screech
nuts	crack