

VERBS: Action, Linking, Helping

A verb is one or more words telling what the subject does, how the subject exists, or how it links the subject to another word that describes the subject. There are three forms of verbs:

1. **Action Verbs:** verbs that show activity, movement, thought, or process. They tell what action the subject performs—what the subject is doing. To find the main action verb in a sentence, ask: “What action does the subject perform? What is the subject *doing*?”

Example: The baby smiles at her parents.

2. **Linking Verbs:** verbs that connect (link) the subject to another word or words that describe or rename the subject. Linking verbs show no action. They sometimes are called “state of being” verbs.

Example: The coat feels rough and scratchy.

Common Linking Verbs (also includes all of their forms):

Forms of “to be”		Senses	Condition
am	were	look	seem
is	be	sound	appear
are	being	taste	become
was	been	smell	
		feel	

3. **Helping Verbs:** verbs that always appear with another verb (the main verb) to form the “complete verb.” They indicate such things as tense, voice, mood, person, and number. A sentence can have more than one helping verb.

Example: I should have taken the earlier flight to Chicago.

Common Helping Verbs (also includes all of their forms):

3 m’s	“to do”	“to have”	“to be”	rhyming words
may	do	have	am were	can shall will
might	does	has	is be	could should would
must	did	had	are being	
			was been	

REMEMBER: Do not include **adverbs** that may appear in between verbs as part of the complete verb. These adverbs include:

not always sometimes never ever
 often already just only

Examples:

He has never gone fishing with me.
 She is not singing in choir this year.
 I have just come home from the party.
 My mom will only buy groceries at County Market.