



Topic 3: Parts of Speech - VERB

EN110



WHAT IS VERB?

VERB - is a word that describes what the subject of a sentence is doing. Verbs can indicate (physical or mental) actions, occurrences, and states of being.

Examples:

Jeffrey **builds** a house.

Anita **is thinking** about horses.

True love **exists**.

TYPES OF VERBS

REGULAR VS. IRREGULAR VERBS

1. Regular verbs follow the standard conjugation rules for English verbs, most verbs are regular. A verb is considered regular if its **simple past** and **past participle** are formed by **adding the suffix “-ed”** (or “-d” if the word already ends in the letter “e”).

Example: (Past simple and past participle of “finish” in a sentence)

1. Sarah **finished** her work.
2. Claude **had finished** his dinner when James called.
4. Jock **has finished** writing in his journal.
5. Tina **will have finished** her course by the end of next month.

TYPES OF VERBS

REGULAR VS. IRREGULAR VERBS

2. Irregular verbs form their simple past and past participles in **some way** other than by adding the suffix “-ed.”

Example: (Past simple and past participle of “swim” in a sentence)

1. Andre **swam** in all five of the Great Lakes last summer.
2. I **had swum** almost a mile when the island came into view.
3. Melissa **has swum** every Saturday for the last three years.
4. If he succeeds next week, Antonio **will have swum** the English Channel ten times!

TYPES OF VERBS

TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE VERBS

3. A transitive verb is a verb that acts on someone or something and therefore takes a **direct object** (the thing being acted upon).

Examples: Transitive verbs in a sentence:

1. Kelly **asks** a question.
2. Toby **buys** groceries.

TYPES OF VERBS

TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE VERBS

4. Intransitive verbs do not act on someone or something and therefore do not take a direct object. While an intransitive verb does not take a direct object, it can be used along with an adverb or adverbial phrase (as can a transitive verb).

Examples: Intransitive verbs in a sentence:

1. Rita **coughed**.
2. Rita **coughed** loudly.
3. Rita **coughed** on me!

TYPES OF VERBS

TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE VERBS

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TYPES OF VERBS

STATIVE AND DYNAMIC VERBS

5. Stative verbs describe a **state of being or perception** (e.g., “she is,” “it seems,” “they belong”). They can also be used to describe a mental, emotional, or physical state (e.g., “I believe,” “you hear”). Stative verbs are typically used for a state of being that is general or unchanging, so they can’t be used in the progressive (continuous) tense.

Examples: Stative verbs in a sentence

1. Karl **believes** in himself.
2. Karl **is believing** in himself.

TYPES OF VERBS

STATIVE AND DYNAMIC VERBS

6. **Dynamic verbs** (also called **action verbs**) describe specific, temporary **actions** or events (e.g., “eat,” “sleep,” “write”).

Examples: Dynamic verbs in a sentence:

1. Amy **kicks** the ball.
2. Lydia **is running** to school.

TYPES OF VERBS

AUXILIARY VERBS

7. A **linking verb** (also called a **copular verb**) connects the subject of a sentence with a “subject complement” (i.e., a noun or adjective that describes it). Common linking verbs include the verbs “be,” “seem,” “become,” and “feel.”

Example: Linking verbs in a sentence

1. Fionn **is** proud.
2. The pillow **feels** soft.

Most linking verbs can also be used as action verbs, describing a specific action rather than a state (e.g., “Sofie **feels** the pillow”).

TYPES OF VERBS

AUXILIARY VERBS

8. **Auxiliary verbs** (also called **helping verbs**) include verbs such as “be,” “do,” and “have.” They’re used in combination with another (main) verb to modify its meaning. Auxiliary verbs can be used to indicate **tense**, **mood**, and **voice**. They’re also used to form **negative statements** when used with words such as “not,” and “never.” Auxiliary verbs must be conjugated for tense and person (e.g., “I am,” “she was”).

Example: Auxiliary verbs:

1. I **am** waiting.
2. **Did** you enjoy the meal?
3. The door **was** locked.
4. Alicia **has not** spoken to me for a week.

TYPES OF VERBS

PHRASAL VERBS

10. A phrasal verb is a phrase made up of two or more words that acts as an individual verb. Phrasal verbs typically combine a verb with an adverb or preposition to create a meaning independent of the original words. For example, the verb “kick” and the preposition “off” combine to form the phrasal verb “kick off,” which means “begin.”

Example: Phrasal verb:

1. I'm going to **move out** next month.

TYPES OF VERBS

GERUNDS

11. A **gerund** is a noun that takes the present participle (“-ing”) form of a verb. Gerunds typically describe the same action as the verb from which they are formed.

Example: Gerund in a sentence

1. Eating fruits and vegetables is good for you.



TENSES OF VERBS

Verbs are also conjugated based on **tense**. There are three main tenses in English:

1. **Past** (an action has taken place)
2. **Present** (an action is taking place)
4. **Future** (an action will take place)

Each tense has a **simple**, **progressive**, **perfect**, and **perfect progressive** aspect with its own rules for conjugation.

The forms a verb takes in each aspect depend on the subject and on whether the verb is regular or irregular. Below is a table illustrating the various forms the regular verb “look” takes in the first person singular when conjugated.



	Past	Present	Future
Simple	I looked at the painting.	I look at the painting.	I will look at the painting.
Progressive	I was looking at the painting.	I am looking at the painting.	I will be looking at the painting.
Perfect	I had looked at the painting.	I have looked at the painting.	I will have looked at the painting.
Perfect progressive	I had been looking at the painting.	I have been looking at the painting.	I will have been looking at the painting.

