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Verbs

What is a verb?

A verb is one of the main parts of a sentence or question in English.

In fact, you can't have a sentence or a question without a verb! That's how important these "action" parts of speech are. Even the shortest sentence in English is a verb- "**Go**".

The verb signals an action, an occurrence, or a state of being. Whether mental, physical, or mechanical, verbs always express activity.

Physical Verbs Definition and Examples

Physical verbs are action verbs. They describe specific physical actions. If you can create a motion with your body or use a tool to complete an action, the word you use to describe it is most likely a physical verb.

Physical Verb Examples

The examples of physical verb examples in the following sentences are typed in bold for easy identification.

- Let's **run** to the corner and **hide** ourselves behind the cupboard.
- John **visited** his friend for a while and then **went** home.
- She **waited** for her friend at the mall.
- The horse **trotted** along the trail.

Transitive Verbs – Definition and Examples

A **transitive** verb is one that is used with an object: a noun, phrase, or pronoun that refers to the person or thing that is affected by the action of

the verb. In the following sentences, *admire*, *maintain*, *face*, and *love* are transitive verbs:

I **admire** your valour.

We need to **maintain** product quality.

I couldn't **face** him today.

She **loves** animals.

Some transitive verbs can be used with a **direct object** and an **indirect object**:

Liz brought **her** **a glass of water.**

[indirect object] [direct object]

He sent **her** **a letter.**

[indirect object] [direct object]

Intransitive Verbs – Definition and Examples

An **intransitive** verb does not have an object. In the following sentences, *cry*, *work*, *laugh*, and *talk* are intransitive verbs:

The baby **was crying**.

I **work** for a large firm in Tokyo.

They **laughed** heartily.

We **talked** for hours.

Mental Verbs – Definition and Examples

Mental verbs have meanings that are related to concepts such as discovering, understanding, thinking, or planning. In general, a mental verb refers to a cognitive state.

Mental Verb Examples

The mental verb examples in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- I **know** the truth.
- She **recognized** Asha from across the room.
- Do you **believe** everything she tells you?

States of Being Verbs – Definition and Examples

Also known as linking verbs, state of being verbs describe conditions or situations that exist. State of being verbs are inactive since no action is being performed. These verbs are usually complemented by adjectives.

States of Being Verb Examples

The state of being verbs in the following sentences are in bold for easy identification.

- I **am** a singer.
- We **are** here for a meeting.
- There **is** nothing in the refrigerator.

The forms of the verb "to be"

When?	Who?	Form	Example
Base form		be	It can <u>be</u> simple.
Simple Present	I	am	I <u>am</u> here.

	You	are	You <u>are</u> here.
	He/She/It	is	He <u>is</u> here.
	We	are	We <u>are</u> here.
	They	are	They <u>are</u> here.
Simple Past	I	was	I <u>was</u> there.
	You	were	You <u>were</u> there.
	He/She/It	was	He <u>was</u> there.
	We	were	We <u>were</u> there.
	They	were	They <u>were</u> there.
Simple Future	I	will be	I <u>will be</u> here.
	You	will be	You <u>will be</u> here.
	He/She/It	will be	She <u>will be</u> here.
	We	will be	We <u>will be</u> here.
	They	will be	They <u>will be</u> here.
Progressive form		being	He is <u>being</u> unusual.
Perfect form		been	It has <u>been</u> fun.

The verb "to be" also has many different meanings.

The following are the most important ones.

The meanings of the verb "to be"

1. Existence

There **is** a mouse inside the box.

There **is** nothing in the kitchen.

There **is** a pond.

There **is** a difference of thought between the father and the son.

2. Happens.

The party **is** tonight.

The meeting **is** down the hall.

Come, it **is** over there.

3. Located.

She **is** at home.
Moumita **is** not sitting there.
The food **is** on the table.

4. Shows identity.

She **is** Anita and this **is** Suman.
He **is** a teacher.
He **is** *not* an actor.

4. Shows a quality.

She **is** beautiful.
It **is** stinky.
This **is** dangerous.

The verb "to be" as an auxiliary verb (helping verb)

Auxiliary verbs are verbs that are used together with the main verb of the sentence to express the action or state.

Main verb + auxiliary verb = complete idea

The verb "to be" can be used as an auxiliary verb to express *ongoing*(continuing) actions.

For example:

Anumita **is** eating an egg.

"Eating" = the main verb.

"Is" = an auxiliary (helping) verb.

"is eating" (a complete idea) = the eating is in progress.

More examples:

Kiran **is** walking home with her friends.

Amrita and Ellina **are** watching a movie.

I **am** trying to get some sleep.

The verb "to be" in passive sentences

The verb "to be" is used together with the third form of the verb (V3) in passive sentences.

For example:

ACTIVE: I eat an apple.

PASSIVE: The apple **is** eaten.

"Eaten" = the main verb (in the third form – V3).

"Is" = an auxiliary (helping) verb.

"is eaten" (a complete idea) = the subject of the sentence (the apple) is affected by the action.

More examples:

People buy cars. --> Cars **are** bought.

Someone turned on the light. --> The light **was** turned on.

He will clean the house. --> The house **will be** cleaned.

Progressive Forms of the verb "to be"

The progressive form of the verb "to be" is "being."

This means the action is *ongoing* (continuing).

Examples:

The little boy is **being** naughty.

She was **being** rude, but then she apologized.

They are **being** tricked.

Perfect Forms of the verb "to be"

The perfect form of the verb "to be" is "been."

This means the action is *complete* (finished).

Examples:

The little boy has **been** naughty.

She has **been** rude, but now she apologizes.

They have **been** tricked.

Auxiliary Verb – Definition and Examples

Auxiliary literally means *giving help*, So an auxiliary verb is one that helps the main verb form in *tenses, moods, voices etc.* The following verbs are auxiliaries: **is, are, am, was, were, be, can, could, dare, do, does, did, have, has, had, may, might, must, need, ought, shall, should, will, would, used to.**

1. **May** implies permission, doubt or possibility.

Ex. May I come in? (permission)

It may rain tonight. (possibility)

2. **Might** is the past form of “may” and it implies more doubt than “may”.
Ex. If the clouds are salted, the rains might come.

3. **Can** is used to express ability.
Ex. He can do the work.

4. **Could** is the past form of can but it does not necessarily represent past time. Often it implies a more uncertain condition.
Ex. He could refuse, but she never does.

5. **Should** expresses the idea that something must be done or is important. **Should** and **ought to** have similar meanings, but **ought** is followed by “to” “**Ought to**” has a more objective force and is used when we are talking about laws, duties and regulations.
Ex. We **ought to** see her tomorrow.

6. **Must** is used to give strong advice or orders.
Ex. He really must stop drinking.

7. **Do** is used to make question and negative forms of ordinary verbs.
Ex. Do you know him?
I don't like swimming.
“Do” is always used in question-tags.
Ex. You know painting, do you?

Stative Verbs – Definition and Examples

Stative verbs can be recognized because they express a state rather than an action. They typically relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being, and measurements.

Stative verbs are not usually used in the continuous form, even when we are talking about temporary situations or states.

So, we say *I'm sorry, I don't understand* rather than *I'm not understanding*.

1. **Stative verbs** are often verbs connected with thinking and opinions.

- *She doesn't know what to do* NOT ~~*She isn't knowing what to do*~~
- *Do you agree with me?*

- *I don't recognise it, do you?*

Other verbs in this group

include: **believe, doubt, guess, imagine, mean, remember, think**

2. Other **stative verbs** are connected with feelings and emotions

- *I like this song. Who sings it? NOT ~~I'm liking this song~~*
- *What do you want to do now?*
- *I hate my new boss!*

Other stative verbs in this group include: **dislike, love, prefer, want, wish**

NB – although '**enjoy**' is a verb of emotion, it is used in the continuous tense

- *I'm enjoying the party.*

3. '**see**', '**hear**', '**taste**', '**smell**', '**feel**' are verbs that describe senses.

These verbs aren't usually used in continuous forms. They are often used with '*can*'.

- *It smells of smoke in here. NOT ~~It's smelling of smoke in here~~*
- *I can't see anything. It's too dark.*

4. **Stative verbs** describe things that are not actions.

Look carefully at these 2 sentences.

- *He smells of fish.*
- *He's smelling the fish.*

The second sentence is an action – not a state. The man wants to know if the fish is OK to eat.

- *I think we should go to Croatia for our holiday this year.*
- *Sorry, what did you say? I was thinking about my holiday.*

The first sentence is an opinion but the second sentence is an action.

Phrasal Verbs – Definition and Examples

A phrasal verb is a verb that is made up of a main verb together with an adverb or a preposition, or both. Typically, their meaning is not obvious from the meanings of the individual words themselves. They carry an another meaning. For example:

He always **looked down on** me.

Fighting **broke out** among a group of 40 men.

I'll **see to** the animals.

Don't **put** me **off**, I'm trying to concentrate.

The report **spelled out** the need for more staff.

In the first example, the phrasal verb 'to look down on someone' doesn't mean that you are looking down from a higher place at someone who is below you; it means that you think that you are better than someone.

Similarly in the second sentence, 'broke out' does not mean breaking, but it means getting spread.

Irregular Verbs – Definition and Examples

Irregular verbs live by their own set of rules; they are the mavericks of the English language. A regular verb will change from present tense to past tense with the simple addition of -ed at the end. But with irregular verbs -d and -ed is not added.

For example, "I **walk**" (present tense) becomes "I **walked**" (past tense). Pretty regular, right? Irregular verbs, however, don't follow this simple structure.

Let's take the verb **to drink**. You can't turn, "I **drink** green tea," into, "I **drinked** green tea." For the past tense you say, "I **drank** green tea." Drink belongs to the class of irregular verbs because it shifts from **drink** to **drank**, not drink to **drinked**.

Most of the verbs in the English language are irregular verbs.

Some other important rules related to verb are as follows:

When one verb is followed by another, the second verb can either be an **Infinitive** or an **-ing** form. Some verbs can be followed by only an **infinitive**, others by only an **-ing** form and some by both but with a change in meaning. To know which structure to use, you can consult a good dictionary but here are some common examples.

Verb + infinitive

- I want to speak to the manager.
- She's learning to ride a horse.
- He offered to help us wash up.

'**Want**', '**learn**' and '**offer**' are followed by **to + infinitive**

Other verbs in this group include: **afford, agree, ask, choose, decide, expect, hope, prepare, promise, pretend, refuse, would like.**

Verb + 'ing' form

- I enjoy travelling.
- He admitted stealing the necklace.
- I don't mind waiting if you're busy.

'**enjoy**', '**admit**' and '**mind**' are followed by the '**ing**' form

Other verbs in this group include: **avoid, consider, dislike, feel like, finish, give up, can't help, practise, suggest.**

Verb + infinitive or 'ing' form with no change in meaning

A few verbs can be followed by either an **infinitive** or the '**ing**' form and the meaning does not change.

- I started to work here in 1994.
- I started working here in 1994.

The meaning of these two sentences is the same.

There aren't many verbs that can take an **infinitive** or an '**ing**' form with no change in meaning. '**Begin**' and '**continue**' are two more examples.

There is also a group of verbs that can be followed by an **infinitive** or an **'ing' form** with a change in meaning. These verbs will be covered in another section.

Q1. Fill in the blank spaces with an appropriate form of verb:

1. Kiran _____ rotten today.
a. feels b. feeling c. was felt
d. None of these
2. I _____ your brother's wonderful spaghetti sauce.
a. smell b. smells c. am smelling
d. None of these
3. He often helps other people. I _____ he is a good man.
a. think b. am thinking c. am thought
d. None of these
4. This soup _____ good. I really like it.
a. has been tasting b. tasted c. had tasted
d. None of these
5. She _____ him for quite a long time. They are good friends.
a. has been knowing b. knows c. had known
d. None of these
6. Your bag _____ a ton. There are too many books in it.
a. weighs b. has been weighing
c. had weighed d. None of these
7. I _____ a little boy in the room. He is sleeping on the sofa.

a. have been seeing b. see c. had seen

d. None of these

8. Go and _____ that pen.

a. fetch b. bring c. brought

d. None of these

9. You _____ act promptly.

a. may b. must c. might

d. None of these

10. He said he _____ reconsider his decision.

a. may b. must c. might

d. None of these

1. If I **was** you, I would do it at once.

(a) were

(b) am

(c) would be

(d) no improvement

2. They set a strong guard, lest anyone **could** escape.

(a) would

(b) might

(c) should

(d) no improvement

3. What book **he likes** best?

(a) does he likes

(b) does he like

(c) did he liked

(d) no improvement

4. The accused **refused** having murdered anybody.

(a) disagreed

(b) denied

(c) declaimed

(d) no improvement

5. Candidates **might** answer at least five out of ten questions.

(a) must

(b) most

(c) should

(d) no improvement

6. When **you will** return home?

(a) will you

(b) you are

(c) you shall

(d) no improvement

7. They **hanged** the picture on the wall.

(a) hanging

(b) hung

(c) had hanged

(d) no improvement

8. Four weeks **are** a good holiday.

(a) were

(b) is

(c) have been

(d) no improvement

9. He would not **listen to** me.

(a) heard

(b) hear

(c) listened

(d) no improvement

10. I **said** him to go.

(a) told

(b) tell

(c) tells

(d) no improvement

Answers

1. a. feels

2. a. smell

3. a. think

- 4. d. None of these
 - 5. b. knows
 - 6. a. weighs
 - 7. b. see
 - 8. b. bring
 - 9. b. must
 - 10. c. might
-

- II 1. a. were
 - 2. b. might
 - 3. a. does he like
 - 4. b. denied
 - 5. a. must
 - 6. a. will you
 - 7. b. hung
 - 8. b. is
 - 9. b. hear
 - 10. a. told
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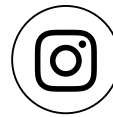
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RBI ASSISTANT | IPPB OFFICER | IBPS RRB OFFICER | IBPS RRB ASSISTANT |
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