

THE VERB

WHAT ARE VERBS?

FORMS OF VERBS

REGULAR VERBS

IRREGULAR VERBS

AUXILIARY VERBS

THE PASSIVE AND ACTIVE VOICES

LINKING VERBS

MODAL VERBS

VERBS

A verb expresses action (with the verb 'to be') or makes a statement about a person or thing. Every sentence must have a subject and a verb.

Types of Verbs

a) Action Verbs: These express both physical and mental action: e.g.

- Mary **danced** with David. (action verb which expresses physical activity).
- John **thinks** about his wife. (action verb expressing mental activity).

Types of Verbs

b) Finite and infinite or non-finite verbs

A finite verb is a “working” verb with a subject; it can be in any tense. A non-finite verb has no subject and it is not in any tense. It can be in

- the **infinitive** (to walk)
- the **present participle** (walking)
- the **past participle** (walked).

We must use at least one subject and a finite verb in each sentence:

He had finished.

Subj finite verb (past perfect).

The present participle or the “**ing**” form of the verb can be used to join two sentences:

- She spoke to the men. They were painting the houses.

She spoke to the men painting the houses.

It can also be used to shorten a sentence:

- Students who **study** hard will pass their exams.

Students **studying** hard will pass their exams.

Forms of Verbs

Verbs have three principal forms in English: the **infinitive**, **past tense** and the **past participle**.

The **infinitive** is the verb's primary form (**play**, **eat**, **write** etc); it is often used with "to" (**to play**, **to eat**, **to write**).

For regular verbs, the **past tense** and the **past participle** are formed by adding "**ed**" or "**d**" to the infinitive form, while for irregular verbs, there is no standard pattern to form the past tense and the past participle.

Regular verbs

Infinitive

Select

Inform

play

protect

mark

recite

cook

decide

Past tense

selected

Informed

Played

protected

marked

recited

cooked

decided

Past participle

selected

Informed

Played

protected

marked

recited

cooked

decided

Irregular verbs

Infinitive

arise

awake

beat

begin

sleep

bend

go

blow

ring

Past tense

arose

awoke

beat

began

slept

bent

went

blew

rang

Past participle

arisen

awakened

beaten, beat

begun

slept

bent

gone

blown

rung

Irregular verbs

Infinitive

bring

buy

build

teach

catch

sit

dig

put

eat

fall

Past tense

brought

bought

built

taught

caught

sat

dug

put

ate

fell

Past participle

brought

bought

built

taught

caught

sat

dug

put

eaten

fallen

Irregular verbs

Infinitive	Past tense	Past participle
fly	flew	flown
sing	sang	sung
forget	forgot	forgotten, forgot
freeze	froze	frozen
swing	swung	swung
write	wrote	written
wring	wrung	wrung
wear	wore	worn
win	won	won

Irregular verbs

Infinitive

hit

get

choose

come

become

dream

cost

break

Past tense

hit

got

chose

came

became

dreamt

cost

broke

Past participle

hit

got

chosen

come

become

dreamt

cost

broken

Auxiliary verbs:

These are verbs which work with other verbs to create verb tenses or to form questions:

(is, were, been, being, are, will, do, did, may, must, could, should, might, etc)

Examples:

- Grace will buy a new dress today.
- Must James come with me?

THE PASSIVE AND ACTIVE VOICES

Voice in English is that grammatical category which makes it possible to see an action in a sentence in two ways without a change in the facts reported. In the active voice, the subject is the doer of the action while the object is the receiver of the action for example

John took **the birds to the market.**

With the passive voice more emphasis is laid on what is done or the action than on who does it (subject) for example:

The birds were taken to the market by **John.**

In this sentence we are really not interested in who took the birds to the market but in the fact that the birds were taken to the market.

Linking Verbs

These are verbs which express either a state of being or a condition: to be (is, was, been, were being, am, etc), appear, feel, look, seem, become, make, taste, sound, grow.

Examples:

- The man **seems** to be drunk.
- I **feel like** bathing now.
- My friend **looks** angry.

You wouldn't like it, would you? I would.

Modal verbs short form

will	'll
would	'd
cannot	can't
could not	couldn't
might not	mightn't
must not	mustn't
ought not to	oughtn't to
shall not	shan't
will not	won't
would not	wouldn't

