

Verbs

Verbs in English are mostly used to describe 'actions' (run, walk, eat, talk, sleep etc...)

There are : Dynamic, stative, regular, irregular, transitive, intransitive, and auxiliary verbs, and others which are less used.

Dynamic verbs are generally referred to as verbs where the action can be seen or felt.

Talk, run, sleep, eat, hit, play, work, clean, etc... In all of these verbs we can see or feel the effect of the verb.

In our examples we will use present tense, but there are also past and future tenses in many forms.

I **go** to the beach every weekend. She **eats** lunch at 1pm. They **play** tennis every Sunday afternoon. Do you **walk** to work?

Stative verbs are also known as non-action verbs because there is no action which can be seen or felt. The action is often emotion, thoughts, feelings, or verbs of the senses.

I **know** John. (There is no action, only a 'state' of me and John's relationship).

Do you **believe** in god? (This is an emotion, or a thought process).

I **have** 2 brothers. (This describes the relationship between my brothers and me. There is no action).

Where is he from? I don't know but he **looks** Italian to me. (This is a verb of the senses. The look of him is Italian).

Transitive verbs are verbs where there is an object the action is happening to.

Every summer they **paint** their **fence** a different colour.

If we ask the question, what do they paint? The answer is the fence. The fence is the object.

Examples: Rosemary **put** the box on the **table**. Please **wash** your **hands** before you eat.

Intransitive verbs are verbs where there is no object being acted on.

John **likes** to paint. Please **wash** before you eat. Rosemary **put** the box down.

What does John like to paint? Wash what? Where did Rosemary put the box?

Answer to all questions is negative, so these have no object, so therefore are intransitive verbs.

Auxiliary verbs are verbs which determine the mood, state or tense of another verb in a sentence.

The 3 main auxiliary verbs are: **'to have'** **'to be'** **'to do'**.

Often referred to as verbs of **possession, state, and action**, these verbs are used to complement many sentences where multiple meanings are intended.

Examples: I **have** a headache = my head is in a state of pain.

I **have** 1 brother and 1 sister = these are my possessions.

She **has** driven all the way from London = action of driving.

They **are** married = a state of existence/ a relationship.

She **is** learning to speak German = and action.

I **do** yoga 3 times a week = an action.

She is **doing** well = indicating a state (state of emotion/health/wellbeing)

Modal auxiliary verbs are also known as modal verbs, or modals, are:

Helping verbs – they help to form the meaning of the sentence.

Not the main verb. Modals are followed by a main verb.

In simple form, positive or negative.

Are followed by the simple form of the main verb.

Don't take –s or –es endings, past future or continuous forms.

Have specific meanings.

Look at this sentence: She must talk to her boss.

Must is used to: Help form the meaning of **obligation**.

Not the main verb. The main verb is **talk**.

Is in its simple form.

The following verb (**talk**) is in its simple form.

Does not have –s –es past, future or continuous endings.

Has a specific meaning (**obligation**)

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