

# VERBS

There are **main verbs** and **auxiliary verbs**.

- 1. Main Verbs** describe the actions or the condition of something or someone in a sentence.

Julie walks to school. (action: walk)

Tom is sick. (Tom's condition: sick)

**Main verbs can be transitive verbs, intransitive verbs or linking verbs.**

**Transitive Verbs** are action verbs that are followed by objects (noun or noun-phrase or pronoun). The object refers to person or thing affected by the actions of the verb. Transitive verbs address "what" or "whom".

They **sell** custom-made shoes. They **sell** "what"

He **buys** sale items only. He **buys** "what"

I **find** him standing there waiting. I **find** "whom"

The leader **speaks** about unity. The leader **speaks** about "what"

We **write** to each other often. We **write** to "whom"

Do you **like** that movie? Do you **like** "what"

The donkey **pulls** a cart. The donkey **pulls** "what"

Don't **push** the car uphill. Don't **push** "what"

Can you **help** us? Can you **help** "whom"

I don't **understand** the situation. I don't **understand** "what"

You should **read** it aloud. You should **read** "what"

The wind **carries** it upward. The wind **carries** "what"

He **loses** his mind over the incident. He **loses** "what"

**Intransitive verbs** never take an object. They often express motions and are sometimes followed by a prepositional phrase. Intransitive verbs address "where", "when" and "how".

You can **walk** out of the meeting. You can **walk** "where"

We **sail** across the Atlantic. We **sail** “where”

Can you **come** a bit earlier? Can you **come** “when”

The mouse **crawls** under the bed. The mouse **crawls** “where”

Can you **drive** faster? Can you **drive** “how”

Where do we **go** after the movie? Where do we **go** “when”

I **fly** on American Airlines. I **fly** “how”

They **hurry** to the market. They **hurry** “where”

I **ride** in his car. I **ride** “how”

He **travels** the world for a living. He **travels** “where”

He **runs** up and down the hills. He **runs** “where”

The squirrel **jumps** from branch to branch. The squirrel **jumps** “where”

**Linking verbs** introduce the condition of someone or something. They do not take a direct object and are often followed by an adjective.

He **becomes** callous.

They **appear** to get along.

The plot is **growing** dark.

The food **tastes** bland.

The aroma **smells** good.

The air **feels** stuffy.

He **seems** odd tonight.

She **is** under the weather.

That doesn't **look** right.

The idea **sounds** great initially.

Some verbs can be **transitive verbs** (followed by direct object) or **linking verbs** (followed by adjective).

### Transitive Verbs

I **taste** a hint of saffron.

The affection **grows** with time.

He **feels** the heat.

They **smell** the success coming.

She **appears** at the end of the play.

The dog **looks** for its owner.

### Linking Verbs

The food **tastes** spicy.

They **grow** nervous.

He **feels** sick.

The foods **smell** great.

She **appears** well again.

The dog **looks** lost.

### Practice1:

Identify whether the verb in the sentence is transitive, intransitive, or linking verb.

1. His friends gave him a lift. \_\_\_\_\_
2. This is a great event. \_\_\_\_\_
3. This event is great. \_\_\_\_\_
4. He went to work. \_\_\_\_\_
5. These soldiers defended the city. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do they understand English? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The plot of the story turned very dark. \_\_\_\_\_
8. It sounds awful. \_\_\_\_\_
9. He has proof of ownership. \_\_\_\_\_
10. She likes the attentions. \_\_\_\_\_
11. He seems odd today. \_\_\_\_\_
12. He jumps from one job to another. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Victory tasted great. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Michael came to town. \_\_\_\_\_
15. They hurry to school. \_\_\_\_\_
16. I sent condolence to my colleague. \_\_\_\_\_
17. He appears happy. \_\_\_\_\_
18. They come to the party. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Her phone was stolen. \_\_\_\_\_.
20. My daughter finally met him. \_\_\_\_\_
21. She drives past the stop sign. \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers1:

1. His friends gave him a lift. **transitive**
2. This is a great event. **transitive**
3. This event is great. **linking**
4. He went to work. **intransitive**
5. These soldiers defended the city. **transitive**
6. Do they understand English? **transitive**
7. The plot of the story turned very dark. **linking**
8. It sounds awful. **linking**
9. He has proof of ownership. **transitive**
10. She likes the attentions. **transitive**
11. He seems odd today. **linking**
12. He jumps from one job to another. **intransitive**
13. Victory tasted great. **linking**
14. Michael came to town. **intransitive**
15. They hurry to school. **intransitive**
16. I sent condolence to my colleague. **transitive**
17. He appears happy. **linking**
18. They come to the party. **intransitive**
19. Her phone was stolen. **linking**
20. My daughter finally met him. **transitive**
21. She drives past the stop sign. **Intransitive**

## **2. Auxiliary Verbs (or helping verbs) are used to modify the meaning or tense of main verbs.**

**Modal verbs** are also auxiliary verbs. They modify the main verbs with notions such as possibility, capacity, ability, or necessity. Modal verbs include **can, could, shall, will, would, should, may, and might**.

Julie studies English. (action: studies)

Julie **is** studying English. (in progress, present continuous)

Julie **does** study English. (auxiliary verb “do” is used to make positive emphasis)

Julie **has** studied English. (present perfect)

Julie **had** studied English. (past perfect)

Julie **has to** study English. (great obligation, duty)

Julie **should** study English. (slight obligation, suggestion)

Julie **needs to** study English. (obligation, good thing to do)

Julie **is supposed to** study English. (some obligation, suggestion)

Julie **must** study English. (necessity, duty)

Julie **ought to** study English. (obligation, good thing to do)

Julie **wants to** study English. (desire)

Julie **is able to** study English. (ability)

Julie **can** study English. (ability)

Julie **may** study English. (possibility)

Julie **might** study English. (possibility)

Julie **did** study English. (auxiliary verb “do” is used to make positive emphasis)

Julie **didn't** study English. (auxiliary verb “do” is used to make negative statement)

**Did** Julie study English? (auxiliary verb “do” is used for questions)

**When we add an auxiliary, we must use the same tense as that of the main verb:**

Joey flew to New York last night -> Joey had to fly to New York last night.

Jenny is helping her brother -> Jenny is able to help her brother.

Jenny will help her brother -> Jenny will be able to help her brother.

## Practice2:

Rewrite the sentences with the auxiliary provided using the same tense as the main verb.

1. His friends gave him a lift. (have to)
2. This is a great event. (need to)
3. This event is great. (ought to)
4. He went to work. (be able to)
5. These soldiers defended the city. (be supposed to)
6. They understand English. (to do used for question)
7. The plot of the story turned very dark. (to do used for emphasis)
8. It sounds awful. (to do used for emphasis)
9. He has proof of ownership. (must)

10. She liked the attentions. (may)
11. He is at his best today. (want to be)
12. He jumped from one job to another. (need to)
13. Victory tasted great. (must)
14. Michael came to town. (be supposed to)
15. They hurry to school. (ought to)
16. I sent condolence to my colleague. (should)
17. He appears happy. (to do used for emphasis)
18. They came to the party. (want to)
19. Her phone was stolen. (may)
20. My daughter finally met him. (want to)
21. She drove to San Francisco. (can)

### **Answers2:**

1. His friends had to give him a lift.
2. This needs to be a great event.
3. This event ought to be great.
4. He was able to go to work.
5. These soldiers were supposed to defend the city.
6. Do they understand English?
7. The plot of the story did turn very dark.
8. It does sound awful.
9. He must have proof of ownership.
10. She might like the attentions. (might is the past tense of may)
11. He wants to be at his best today.
12. He needed to jump from one job to another.
13. Victory must have tasted great.
14. Michael was supposed to come to town.
15. They ought to hurry to school.
16. I should send condolence to my colleague.
17. He does appear happy.
18. They wanted to come to the party.
19. Her phone might have been stolen.
20. My daughter wanted to finally meet him.
21. She could drive to San Francisco.