

LA#1

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319 S. Naperville Road Wheaton, IL 60187 [www.questionsgalore.net](http://www.questionsgalore.net)  
Phone: (630) 580-5735 E-Mail: [info@questionsgalore.net](mailto:info@questionsgalore.net) Fax: (630) 580-5765

### STUDY GUIDE: VERBS

Verbs are one of the seven parts of speech. **Every sentence must have a verb.** A verb is located in the predicate of a sentence and can either **express the action** in the sentence or **link** words in the predicate to words in the subject.

#### ACTION VERBS:

An action verb tells what action a person or thing is performing. This action may be a visible action, or can be a mental action.

For example, the following verbs show visible action: run, sit, jumped, threw, wrote, or swallowed. Verbs that express mental actions are the following: wonder, remembered, dream, considered, believed, or worried. These mental action verbs express actions that are done by the mind, but the actual process can not be seen with the human eye.

**TRANSITIVE VERBS:** Action verbs can be transitive verbs, if there is a direct object stated within the sentence or if the receiver of the action is named.

In the following examples, the action verb is underlined in each sentence, and the direct object is written in capital letters.

Transitive examples:

Mary rode her HORSE across the pasture.

David broke his new MODEL.

We opened the WINDOW.

The car struck the PEDESTRIAN.

Each of the above underlined verbs is a transitive verb because the object of the action is expressed in the same sentence.

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Intransitive examples:

The criminal raced through the crowd.

We laughed and laughed.

The explorers traveled away from the city.

The new suburb grew slowly.

### LINKING VERBS:

Linking verbs connect a noun or pronoun near the beginning of the sentence with a word farther toward the end of the sentence. **The verb "be" is the most commonly used linking verb.** It has many forms. Here is a list of some of the more common forms of the verb "be", which are used as linking verbs in sentences:

is      are      was      were      be      been      am

#### **Some of the Many Linking Verbs**

has    have    had    can  
could    would    should  
might    must    shall    will

#### **Other Words that are Considered Linking Verbs**

appear    feel    look    seem    become

Examples of linking verbs in a sentence. (The verbs are underlined, and the words that are linked together are written in capital letters.)

STEWART is a taxi DRIVER.

The LOSERS were MARY and MARTHA.

MARK looks OLD.

The MANUSCRIPT should be FINISHED.

### **HELPING VERBS:**

Helping verbs are verbs that are added before another verb to create a **verb phrase**. Most of the helping verbs are the same as the **linking verbs**. Helping verbs are called **auxiliary verbs**, and the other verb in the verb phrase is called the **main verb**.

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Examples of helping, or auxiliary verbs in sentences:  
(The entire verb phrases are written in capital letters, and the auxiliary verbs are underlined.)

Clark HAD PREPARED the report very carefully.  
Betty COULD HAVE ACHIEVED a higher score.  
HAVE you DECIDED to attend college next year?  
Jason HAS BEEN TELLING stories about you.

### PRINCIPAL PARTS OF VERBS

There are four principal parts of each verb:

1. Present
2. Present participle
3. Past
4. Past participle

A helping verb (or auxiliary) is always used with both the present participle and the past participle.

<u>Present</u>	<u>Present Participle</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
1. hope	(am) hoping	hoped	(has) hoped
2. eat	(am) eating	ate	(have) eaten
3. save	(am) saving	saved	(had) saved
4. bring	(am) bringing	brought	(have) brought
5. lose	(am) losing	lost	(have) lost

### REGULAR VERBS:

Regular verbs are verbs that form the past tense and the past participle by adding -ed or -d to their present form. Most verbs are regular verbs.

Examples of regular verbs:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
1. call	called	(have) called
2. dance	danced	(has) danced
3. lift	lifted	(had) lifted
4. compete	competed	(has) competed

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### IRREGULAR VERBS:

Irregular verbs are verbs that do not form their past tense or past participle by adding -ed or -d to their present form. The third and fourth principal parts are formed in different ways and must be memorized.

Examples of irregular verbs:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
1. buy	bought	(have) bought
2. sing	sang	(has) sung
3. speak	spoke	(had) spoken
4. do	did	(had) done
5. burst	burst	(had) burst
6. fly	flew	(has) flown
7. go	went	(has) gone
8. lose	lost	(have) lost
9. run	ran	(has) run
10. fight	fought	(have) fought

### Tenses of Verbs

There are six tenses of verbs:

1. Present
2. Past
3. Future
4. Present Perfect
5. Past Perfect
6. Future Perfect

Here are examples of the six tenses of the verbs go and write.

1. Present	go	write
2. Past	went	wrote
3. Future	will go	will write
4. Present Perfect	have gone	have written
5. Past Perfect	had gone	had written
6. Future Perfect	will have gone	will have written

NOTICE THAT THE PRESENT PERFECT, PAST PERFECT, AND FUTURE PERFECT TENSES ARE ALL FORMS OF THE PAST PARTICIPLE!

### The Voice of a Verb

The voice of a verb shows whether the subject is performing the action, or if the subject is **not** performing the action.

There are two voices:           1. Active Voice  
  2. Passive Voice

**ACTIVE VOICE:** If the subject performs the action, the verb is in the active voice. Any action verb can be in the active voice.

**PASSIVE VOICE:** If the subject **does not perform** the action, the verb is in the passive voice. Most action verbs can also be used in the passive voice.

Active voice: David **RODE** the bicycle.  
                  Mary **SPOKE** at the meeting.  
                  Charlene **ASSISTED** the dentist.

Passive voice: Bob **WAS STRANDED** on the dirt road.  
                  The note **WAS LEFT** on the table.  
                  The fire **WAS REPORTED** by Mary.

In each of the passive voice examples given above, the subject did not do the action. The action was performed upon the subject by somebody or something else.