

VERB

Verbs are words that show action. Every sentence must have a verb. A verb is not always one word. It may be made up of more than one word.

Auxiliary verbs

The words: *am, is, are, was, and were* are *verbs*. They are forms of the verb 'to be'. They are *helping verbs* called *auxiliary verbs*.

If the *subject* of a sentence is *singular*, the *verb* must be *singular*. If the *subject* of a sentence is *plural*, the *verb* must be *plural*. The *verb* must agree with the *subject in number*.

Examples of 'subjects' and 'verbs' being *singular*:

The *man is* sleeping.
She goes to the market.
The *student does* his homework every day.
The *train has* arrived.

'*Man*', '*she*', '*student*' and '*train*' are known as *subjects*. The *subjects* are all *singular*. The *verbs* '*is*', '*goes*', '*does*' and '*has*' are all *singular* too.

Examples of 'subjects' and 'verbs' being *plural*:

The *men are* sleeping.
They go to the market.
The *students do* their homework every day.
The *trains have* arrived.

'*Men*', '*they*', '*students*' and '*trains*' are known as *subjects*. The *subjects* are all *plural*. The *verbs* '*are*', '*go*', '*do*' and '*have*' are all *plural* too.

Other singular and plural subjects that take on singular and plural verbs:

Subjects with words like 'each', 'every', 'any', 'no', 'none' and 'nobody' take on the *singular* verbs.

Examples: *Each student is* given a pen.

Every child is happy watching the show.
Nobody is allowed to walk on the grass.

Uncountable nouns always take *singular* verbs.

Examples: *Rice is* eaten in many countries.

There *is* oil on the floor.
Salt is added to make the food taste better.

Subjects with words like 'both', 'all', 'many', 'some', 'several' and 'a number of' take on a *plural* verb.

Examples: *Both of you have* to come home early.

All of us want to be happy.
Some of my friends are female.

Two or more subjects joined by '*and*' always take a *plural* verb.

Examples:

My brother *and* his friends *like* to play football.
His father *and* mother *are* watching television.

Transitive and intransitive verbs

The verb which needs an object to make its meaning clear or complete is called a *transitive verb*.

Example: He feeds a cat.

The word '*cat*' is called the *object* of the verb '*feeds*'.

The object can be a *noun* or a *pronoun*.

The *intransitive verb* does not need an object but the meaning is clear or complete.

Example:

He ran.

The verb 'ran' does not need an object.

She reads every day. (No object)

He eats quickly. (No object)

The Finite verb

The finite verb changes with the subject. The subject is the person, thing, animal or place we refer to. When the subject is in the first or second person or is plural, the verb does not change. When the subject is in the third person or is singular, the verb changes from, say, '*eat*' to '*eats*'. The verb '*eat*' is a *finite verb*. *Every sentence must have a finite verb*.

Other usage of verbs to remember:

1. When "*and*" is used to join *two nouns* or *pronouns* together, the *verb* is usually in the *plural*.

Examples: *Beef and mutton are meat.*
He and I were classmates.

2. When we use *two nouns* for the *same person* or *thing*, the *verb* should be in the *singular*.

Examples: My friend and classmate *is* very helpful.

Bread and butter *is* his only food.

3. When we use *two nouns* for the *same person*, we use *the article* 'the' *only once* and the *verb* should be in the *singular*.

Example: The shopkeeper and owner of the shop *is* my uncle.

4. When we refer to two *different persons*, we use *the article twice* and the *verb* must be in the *plural*.

Example: *The* shopkeeper and the owner of the shop *are* my good friends.

5. When we join *two nouns* and treat them *as a whole*, the *verb* is in the *singular*.

Example: Bread and butter *is* his usual breakfast.

6. When a *noun* is a *quantity* or an *amount*, it is treated *as a whole* and the *verb* is in the *singular*.

Examples: Ten kilometers *is* not a long way to travel.
Nowadays, fifty dollars *is* not a lot of money.

A verb is used in different forms as follow:

Simple Present Tense	eat
Simple Past Tense	ate
Present Participle	is eating
Past Participle	has eaten
Future Tense	will eat

THE PRESENT TENSE

1. The Present Simple

Used for a habitual or repeated action, that is, for something that we do always, every day, often, usually, etc.

Example: He plays football on Sundays.

- a. Used for a general truth or a fact, that is, for something that is true.
Example: Night follows day.
- b. Used for something or an action happening now.
Example: See how she walks.
- c. Used instead of the future tense.
Example: He arrives tomorrow.
- d. Used instead of the past tense, to make something look more real.
Example: The tiger comes; it catches the boy.
- e. Used instead of the present perfect tense.
Example: We hear that the king is dead.
- f. Used to introduce a quotation, that is, to repeat words spoken or written by someone else.
Example: Shakespeare says: "Neither a borrower nor a lender be."

2. The Present Continuous Tense

Used to show that something is still happening, that is, an action is still going on at the time of speaking. It shows that the action is not yet complete.

Example: He is writing a letter.

- a. Used instead of the future tense. We usually say the time when this future action will take place.
Example: He is going to Japan next week.
- b. Used to use the phrase 'is going' which means 'about to'.
Example: It is going to rain.
- c. Used to show an action which happens many times. We often use 'always' with this expression.
Example: He is always getting into trouble.

3. The Present Perfect Tense

Used to show an action which has just been completed or a past action when the time is not mentioned. The action may be a recent one or it may be one which happened a long time ago.

Example: I have finished reading the book.
There have been many changes in this country.

- a. Used for an action that has been going on from the past until now, that is, something that happened in the past but is going on still.
Example: I have lived here for ten years.
- b. Used often with 'just', 'already', 'recently', 'never', 'yet' and (in questions) with 'ever'.

Example: I have already told them about the plan

She has never replied to my letter.

Have you ever been to London?

- c. Used often to answer questions which contain a verb in the Present Perfect tense.

Example: Where have you been? I have been to London to see the Queen.

What have you lost? I have lost all my money.

4. The Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Used for an action that had been going on in the past before another action occurred in the past.

Example: She had been cooking when we visited her.

THE FUTURE TENSE

The Future Tense is used to show some action or happening in the future. Future Simple + 'Going To'

1. **Simple Future Tense** is used to show future action or that something will happen in the future.
Example: We will complete the work tomorrow.
2. **'Going to'** is used to express a future action that has been planned in advance.
Example: We are going to Japan next week.
3. **Future Continuous Tense** is used to show continuous action at some future time.

Example: I shall be seeing both of you tomorrow.

4. **Future Perfect Tense** is used for an action which will have finished by some future time or date which is mentioned or before another action has begun.

Example: I shall have finished this job by seven o'clock.

I shall have finished this job by the time you arrive.

5. Future Perfect Continuous Tense.

This continuous tense is formed with 'shall/will have been' + a present participle.

Example: I shall have been married for exactly ten years next Saturday.

Exercise

Write the correct form of the verb in the brackets:

- 1) I ----to the cinema yesterday.(to go)
- 2) Peter ----- 13 tomorrow. (to be)
- 3) My friend----- to music every evening.(to listen)
- 4) They ----- their car. It looks new again.(to clean)
- 5) Listen! Mr Jones----- the piano.(to play)
- 6) She ----- her left arm two weeks ago. (to break)
- 7) We ----- a test now. (to write)
- 8) Danny ----- a book this evening. (to read)
- 9) Ken and Emily often----- lunch at school. (to have)

10) He ----- his money. So he can't buy this
hamburger.(to lose)

Answers

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|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1. went | 2. will be | 3. listens |
| 4. have cleaned | 5. is playing | 6. broke |
| 7. are writing | 8. is going to read | 9. have |
| 10. has lost | | |