



## Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf Centre E-Learning



### English – Level1

## Lesson 10

### English verbs

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<b>Etudiants Concernés Semestre 1</b>			
<b>Institut</b>	<b>Département</b>	<b>Année</b>	<b>Spécialité</b>
<b>Lettres et Langues</b>	-Langues Etrangère	Licence1	Français.
<b>Sciences et Technologie</b>	-Mathématique et informatique -Sciences Techniques.	Licence1	-MI. -ST.
<b>Sciences Economique</b>	-Sciences Economique.	Licence1	Toutes les spécialités.

### **Objectives of the Lesson:**

- i. To make students aware of the existence of the verb types;
- ii. To familiarize students with the different types of verbs and show them how to use them appropriately.

## 1. Definition

Verbs have an important role in the wording of a sentence. They are used to express an action, a state, a process or being. They are divided into three types: action verbs, linking verbs, and helping verbs.

### A. Action Verbs

They express and show the action that is usually done by the subject.

**e.g.** He kicked the ball.

Shakespeare **wrote** many famous poems.

**Do** your homework right now.

Action verbs also come in two kinds. They are transitive or intransitive.

### Transitive Verbs

Transitive verbs are verbs that demand a direct object to have a complete meaning of action.

**e.g.** She **ate** lunch.

John **threw** the ball.

The verb here is **ate**. The object is **lunch** which received the action of the verb. In this case, the verb is a transitive verb because without the direct object the meaning is not complete.

### Intransitive Verbs

Intransitive verbs do not demand a direct or indirect object to complete the action unlike the transitive verbs that require a direct object to have a full sense.

**e.g.** The acapella group **sang**.

He **died**.

The verb **sang** has no object to receive the action. It can stand alone and have a full meaning.

**e.g.** She **arrived** from the trip yesterday.

In this example, the verb is **arrived**. The phrase, from the trip yesterday, acts as a modifier to the verb, but no object receives the action of the verb.

### B. Linking Verbs

A linking verb acts as connector between the main subject of the sentence and its

**complements**. Subject complement can be an adjective or a noun that modifies the subject.

**e.g.** The wind **is** blowing.

The water in this glass bottle **seems** cold.

The verbs **is** and **seems** connect the subject to its subject complement **blowing** and **cold**. In this case, the subject complement is both an adjective that modifies the subject.

There are a number of linking verbs in the English language but the most important one is the verb **to be**. The following is a list of some linking verbs: **to appear, to feel, to look, to remain, to stay, to taste, to continue, to grow, to prove, to sound, to smell, to turn, to become, to seem**.

Some of these verbs cannot always act as link verb unlike **become** and **seem**. They always held the position of a connector in a sentence

### C. Helping Verbs

Oftentimes the main verbs in a sentence require another verb to help them express the full meaning of the action. These verbs are known as helping verbs.

Ex: He **is** (helping verb) **reading** (main verb) his favorite book.

I **can** (helping verb) **give** (main verb) you another paper if you want.

**Modals** always serve as helping verbs:

**Will shall must may can would should ought to might could**

These verbs, **to be, to do, and to have**, also may sometimes act as helping verbs. They also may serve as action or linking verbs

**To be am is are was were.**

**To have have has had.**

**To do do did.**

Lisa **is drinking** some water. Lisa **is**

the only girl in her team.

**Time for practice:**

Pick out the verbs in these sentences and tell whether they are action, helping or linking verbs.

1. The room smells. Let's open a window.
2. He was only 35 years old when he died.
3. I must go now.
4. Kate phoned last night.
5. You know that Lisa plays tennis.
6. The water is boiling. Be careful.
7. You don't seem very happy today.

**References**

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- 2) Hashemi, L., & Murphy, R. (2004). English Grammar in Use. *Supplementary exercises*. Cambridge
- 3) Herring, P. (2016). *Complete English Grammar Rules*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.
- 4) Stobbe, G. (2008). *Just enough English grammar illustrated*. McGraw-Hill.