

Kinds of Words - Verbs

REVISE

- ✓ Verbs are commonly referred to as “doing words” - a word used to describe an action or occurrence.
- ✓ There are a number of verb types, each defined by how it is used rather than the word itself. Some verbs can fit into more than one verb type.

Verb Types

Action

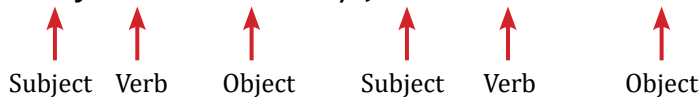
This type of verb, sometimes called a dynamic verb, is used to show an activity that a person or thing can do.

Example: Sally **jumped**.

Transitive

An action verb followed by a direct object (think Subject, Object, Verb sentences!)

Example: Sally **sells** seashells. / James **threw** the ball.



Intransitive

An action verb that is not followed by a direct object, but can be followed by an adverb or adverbial phrase (or just Subject, Verb sentences!)

Example: Sally **swims** slowly. / James **ran** away.



Finite

A verb that shows subject, tense, and number, and is used as the main verb of a sentence.

Example: He **promised** to deliver the parcel.

Nonfinite

The opposite of finite, these verbs do not show subject, tense, or number, and are not used as the main verb of the sentence.

Example: He is going to **deliver** the parcel.

Auxiliary

Also known as a 'helping verb', these verbs are used to determine the mood or tense of another verb in the sentence.

Example: I **will** (auxiliary verb) come (intransitive verb) over tomorrow.

Modal

Modal verbs are a type of auxiliary verb, and assist by indicating ability, possibility, permission, or obligation.

Example: I **might** (modal) come (intransitive) over tomorrow. / I **should** (modal) ask (intransitive) if I can.

Stative

Sometimes called a 'being verb', these are words that describe a state of being, and can be broken down into five main groups - thoughts, feelings, senses, possession, and measurements.

Example: I **know** where to go / I **love** this song! / My cat **weighs** a lot!

Linking

A group of verbs that link a subject with the rest of the sentence. Sometimes an action verb can be used as a linking verb, or function as both at the same time!

Example: The stars **are** in the sky. / Could you **taste** this cake for me?

Phrasal

These are verbs that are made up of more than one word - a main verb and an adverb, a preposition, or sometimes both.

Example: I stood on the roof and **looked down** on the city.

Verb Tenses

Verb Tense	Past an action that has happened	Present an action that is happening currently	Future an action that will or is going to happen
Simple the most basic way to express an action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I cleaned - You cleaned - He/she/it cleaned - We cleaned - They cleaned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I clean - You clean - He/she/it clean - We clean - They clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I will clean - You will clean - He/she/it will clean - We will clean - They will clean
Progressive a continuing action or an action in progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I was walking - You were walking - He/she/it was walking - We were walking - They were walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I am walking - You are walking - He/she/it is walking - We are walking - They are walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I will be walking - You will be walking - He/she/it will be walking - We will be walking - They will be walking
Perfect an action that already occurred at a non-specific time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I had said - You had said - He/she/it had said - We had said - They had said 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have said - You have said - He/she/it has said - We have said - They have said 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I will have said - You will have said - He/she/it will have said - We will have said - They will have said
Perfect Progressive an action that has started and either ended in the past, continues in the present, or will be completed in the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I had been walking - You had been walking - He/she/it had been walking - We had been walking - They had been walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have been walking - You have been walking - He/she/it have been walking - We have been walking - They have been walking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I will have been walking - You will have been walking - He/she/it will have been walking - We will have been walking - They will have been walking

PRACTICE**1****Choose the correct verb to complete the phrase:****We _____ about doing this for the past year.**

- A. am thinking
- B. will be thinking
- C. have been thinking
- D. is thinking
- E. are thinking

Hints	Pay close attention to the tense used in the sentence.
Answer	C - have been thinking
Answer Explanation	The verb required to complete the sentence is a perfect progressive, as the sentence is describing an action that has already started and is continuing into the present.

2

Which two of the following words can be used together to form a phrasal verb?

- A. eat
- B. bring
- C. sit
- D. off
- E. along

Hints	Two-word phrasal verbs are formed from a combination of a main verb and an adverb or preposition.
Answer	B - bring E - along
Answer Explanation	The two words 'bring' and 'along' form the phrasal verb 'bring along', which means to bring something or someone to a certain place. None of the other potential combinations make sense.

- 3 In your own words, explain what a 'past perfect' verb is, and give an example in a sentence.

Hints	What tense will the verb be in, and what does a 'perfect' verb entail?
Answer	A past perfect verb is formed using the word 'had' and the past participle of the main verb. For example: I had walked through the tunnel before.
Answer Explanation	Past perfect verbs reflect an action that happened at an undefined time before the present, and must always use 'had' or 'hadn't'.