

Verbs

What are verbs?

- Action words - I play the guitar every day.
- State words - I love my parents.

What do we know about verbs?

Verbs are an essential part of EVERY sentence in English.

We want to tell people how we feel, what happened, what is true, what will happen.

Be aware: Every time you say something you choose:

- at least one verb
- tense
- active/passive
- subject/object + verb agreement

When we consider verbs, we should be aware of the following aspects, which affect meaning and grammar when you are writing and reading:

- subject / object + verb agreement
- dynamic/stative
- auxiliary
- infinitive - main verbs
- modal
- linking
- transitive/ intransitive

Subject + verb agreement

Below are main verbs/infinitives:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play • build • sleep • think 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be • plan • weave • drink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read • know • share • watch
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Subject: A thing which does an action

Object: A thing which receives an action from a verb

Different subjects/objects have different agreements with verbs.

Let's use the verbs 'live / be' to show the different agreements:

1st person singular:

- I **live / am**

1st person plural:

- We **live / are**

2nd person:

- You **live / are**

3rd person singular:

- He **lives / is**
- She **lives / is**
- It **lives / is**

3rd person plural:

- They **live / are**

Auxiliary Verbs

Auxiliary verbs 'help' the main verb. This means they come before the main verb and alter the meaning of the sentence.

The main auxiliaries are:

- **do**
- **have**
- **be**

Negatives:

- I **do** not live in London.
- Paul **does** not live in London.

Questions:

In questions we 'invert' the subject + verb agreement:

Do you live in London?

Does Paul live in London?

* Note - in negatives and questions, for 3rd person singular, the 's' from the main verb goes to the auxiliary

Tenses:

I **have** been to Spain.
I **am** listening to music.

Passive:

He **is assisted** by a nurse.

Linking Verbs

Linking verbs introduce adjectives:

- taste - This soup **tastes** awful.
- smell - Your perfume **smells** really nice.
- seem - You **seem** confused.
- feel - I **feel** wonderful.
- hear - The music **sounds** fantastic.
- be - I **am** great at tennis. He **is** happy today.

Transitive / Intransitive

Transitive verbs 'take' objects:

- I **bought** a house.
- I **sampled** the new shampoo at the shop.
- She **played** football for 10 years.
- We **have been offered** a new car.

Some verbs are intransitive. They don't take an object:

- sleep - I **sleep** in a bed.
- die - My great aunty **died** last week.
- arrive - We **arrived** at 14:00
- agree - We **agreed** to help each other.

A lot of verbs can be both transitive and intransitive:

- I **kicked** the security guard because he **was** rude. - transitive
- Did you **feel** that? I **think** he **kicked**! - intransitive
- We **floated** a great idea in the meeting.
- Clouds **float** in the sky.

Dynamic & Stative

Some verbs are considered 'dynamic' - because they involve some kind of movement or action. Others are considered 'stative' because they focus mainly on states and conditions.

Dynamic	Stative
play	want
buy	need
eat	believe
jog	like
move	seem
drink	admire
walk	
think care taste have admire	

The main grammatical difference is that we don't use the stative verbs with 'ing':

- ~~I am liking this sandwich.~~

Should be :

- I like this sandwich.

Or you can change verb to a dynamic:

- I am enjoying this sandwich.

Some verbs can be both dynamic and stative in different situations:

- I think you are really funny!

Not ~~I am thinking you are funny.~~

- I am thinking about moving to Hungary.

Not ~~I think about moving to Hungary.~~

Modal Verbs

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs, which support the main verb and alter the meaning of the sentence - sometimes in extreme ways.

Example: The below sentence states what happens every weekend:

You speak to your parents every weekend.

However, just including the modal verb 'should' changes the meaning of the sentence. Now you are giving advice or telling someone about a moral obligation they have:

You **should** speak to your parents every weekend.

Here are some common modal verbs:

- should
- able to can
- must
- have to
- might
- may
- will
- ought to
- had better
- could
- would

They have a range of functions, including obligation, ability, permission, possibility advice.... We will review this in our course.

Quick Review

Use what we've learned above to complete the sentences:

- 1) (Paul= ulcer/His wife = no ulcer) I an ulcer on my leg. My wife
- 2) This sandwich great.
- 3) you money? I have left my wallet in the car.
- 4) Ibreakfast at 7am every day.
- 5) My parents a large house in the countryside.
- 6) Where are you now? I in the house with the yellow door.

Answers

- 1) (Paul= ulcer/His wife = no ulcer) I **have** an ulcer on my leg. My wife **does not**.
- 2) This sandwich **tastes** great.
- 3) **Do you have any** money? I have left my wallet in the car.
- 4) I **eat** breakfast at 7am every day.
- 5) My parents **own** a large house in the countryside.
- 6) Where are you now? I **live** in the house with the yellow door.