

## **Topic: Verbs**

A verb are word that shows an action or a state. All sentences must have a verb. There are many types of verbs.

### **Action Verbs**

Action verbs express specific actions. Action verbs are the words in a sentence that describe what the subject is doing. For example, run, dance, slide, jump, think, do, go, stand, smile, and listen.

#### **Examples:**

1. I **ran** to the gate.
2. He **does** it well.
3. She **thinks** about poetry all day long.

### **State Verbs**

State verbs can be recognized because they express a state rather than an action. They typically relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being, and measurements. When a verb describes a state and not an action we do not use the continuous tens.

Grammatically it is not correct to say “I’m loving it” even though McDonald’s have made this statement famous. ‘Love’ is a state verb and so we should say “I love it”.

#### **State verbs generally fall into four groups.**

Emotion: love, like, hate, want, need

Possession: have, own, want, belonging

Sense: see, hear, smell, see

Thinking: remember, forget, understand, imagine

**Here are some more examples of state verbs:** doubt, dislike, understand, suspect, own, belong, know, like, need, want, seem, mean, believe, forgot, remember, prefer, love hate.

#### **Examples:**

1. The doctor **disagrees** with your analysis.  
Disagree is a state verb here, as it describes the doctor’s state of being – disagreement.
2. Danny **likes** chocolate.
3. I **have** a large family.
4. This watch **belongs** to me.
5. There **was** a fight last Friday.

**Some words can be action verbs and state verbs. The meaning of these verbs is different.**

For example,

1. I **have** a car. (State verb showing possession)
2. I **am having** a bath. (Action verb which, in this case, means ‘taking’.)
3. I **think** you are hot. (State verb meaning, ‘in my opinion’.)
4. I **am thinking** about buying a new car. (Action verb meaning ‘considering’.)

## **Helping Verbs and Main Verbs**

A helping verb (also called auxiliary verb) is a verb that comes before the main verb in a sentence. The main types of auxiliary verbs are:

**Do/does** – For sentence written in the present simple tense;

**Am/is/are/was/were** – For sentences in the continuous tenses;

**Have/has** – For sentences in the perfect tenses.

### **Examples:**

1. David **is climbing** the tree.

This sentence has two verbs – ‘**is**’ and ‘**climbing**’.

‘**Is**’ is the helping verb and ‘**climbing**’ is the main verb.

2. They **are climbing** the tree.

‘**Are**’ is the helping verb and ‘**climbing**’ is the main verb.

## **Modal Verbs**

A modal verb is an auxiliary verb that expresses necessity or possibility. English modal verbs include must, shall, will, should, would, can, could, may, and might.

### **Example:**

Sarah **can ride** her bicycle.

In this sentence, ‘**can**’ is the helping verb and ‘**ride**’ is the main verb.

## **Transitive and Intransitive Verbs**

A transitive verb is one that is used with an object (a noun, phrase, or pronoun that refers to the person or thing that is affected by the action). For example,

1. David **kicked** the dog.

‘David’ is called the subject in the sentence. ‘The dog’ is the object of the transitive verb ‘**kicked**’ because the dog received the kick.

2. I **made** a cake.

## **Intransitive Verbs**

An intransitive verb does not take an object. For example,

The boy **laughed** loudly.

‘Loudly’ is not an object because it is not a word that refers to a person, place, or thing.