

# VERB CONCEPTS



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## **DEDICATION**

To all students who aspire to learn writing and spoken English.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

My most thanks goes to God who is the supreme source of all lives and knowledge. Thanks to the household through whom God brought me to this challenging world. If not for you, I might not have existed.

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My thanks will not be complete if I forget to appreciate all my friends and colleagues for their hospitality and generosity.

Time will fail me to thank all in details.

I say thank you and may God bless.

## **PREFACE**

VERB CONCEPTS is the first title in the series, Self-tutor Analytical English Language. This textbook aims at enlightening students of various levels of education with the rules guiding all the uses of verbs in grammar both in daily writing and spoken English. It is a product of the long time research by the author. It launches out the first step in syntax. It explains the dynamic behaviours of verbs in different sentences, clauses and tenses, thereby providing students of different ages with cautions in their daily expressions and writings. It also serves as a guide in acquiring better grammar and writing skills.

It is a nice book which unveils the fundamental rudiments of the uses of verbs; what are they? When to use them? Where to use them? Why to use them? How to use them?

Therefore, I recommend this book for use in primary school, secondary school, colleges and universities.

Femi Kayode.

## Table of Contents

What is a Verb?	7
Grouping all Verbs into Two.	8
The Linking Verbs	10
Verb Forms.	11
Types of Verbs.	15
Phrasal Verbs.	55
Tenses.	60
Conditional Statement.	66

## VERBS

A verb is a word or a group of words that indicates an action, event, or state of the subject. It is any of a class of words expressing action, existence or occurrence, or used as an auxiliary or copula, and consisting usually the main element of a predicate. A predicate is the part of the sentence (or clause) which states something about the subject or the object of the sentence. When you take a subject out of a sentence, what is left is a predicate.

1. The boy cut the onion yesterday (action/a word).
2. The doctor will treat the patient on Thursday (action/a group of words).
3. The sample is here (state of being/a word).
4. I have been waiting for you since (state of being/a group of words).

Note that an action may be done to someone by someone, to something by someone, to someone by something or to something by something likewise state of being of verbs.

A verb may denote the action (or state of being) that took place in the past, taking place (i.e in the present), or will take place in the future.

## **GROUPING ALL VERBS INTO TWO.**

We can group all verbs into two as follows. i. verbs of action and ii. verbs of state of being.

### ***The Difference between verbs of action and verbs of state of being***

Verbs of action are those that go with flex or gestures, that is, the parts of the body movement, while verbs of state of being go with no flex or gestures.

### **Examples of verbs of action**

Go, write, run, come, wake, pose, prostrate, fly, move, dance, jump, clap, flight, wake, close, etc.

### **Examples of verbs of state of being**

Know, understand, think, love, hate, like, sleep, reason, hope, gladden, wish, sadden, surprise, please, forget, doubt, cogitate, adore, annoy, forgive, motivate, inspire, determine, stimulate, arouse, consider, enthuse, aggravate, remember, provoke, arrest (my attention), trust, believe, develop, improve, strengthen, decide, hear, confuse, worsen, escalate, deteriorate, expect, exist, impose, plan, retrospect, grieve, displease, imagine, picture, falsify, copy, strive, affect, imbibe, experience, disappear, dismiss, enjoy, suspect, desire, want, doublethink, intend, wonder, etc.



**Note:** Looking at the differences very well, one can easily understand that all examples of verbs of action go with movement while those of verbs of state of being go with no movement.

### *Examples in Sentences*

1. Reina goes to her office now. (action verb)
2. I visit my uncle every weekend. (action verb)
3. We love our parents. (state)
4. The man respects his wife. (state)
5. Carlos climbed a tree. (action verb)

### Exercise

State if the verb in each sentence below is a verb of action or verb of state.

1. I feel good.
2. I like oranges.
3. We think everyday.
4. Fred danced in the church last Sunday.
5. She remembers his friend's name.
6. They jumped over the fence.
7. The bell rang.
8. Your statement provoked me.
9. I understand you.
10. Smith forgot his bag in a taxi.

## LINKING VERBS

Linking verb is a weakened verbal form especially forms of 'be' or any similar verb such as seem, appear, etc. which links a subject with a predicate complement. Linking verb is otherwise known as **copula**.

### Examples of Linking Verbs (Copula)

All forms of "be" such as be, am, is, was, were, are; go, run, feel, seem, appear, grow, look, taste, smell, sound, remain, become, stay, come, get,

Examples in sentence

1. I am happy.
2. The song sounds interesting.
3. You look nice in your attire.
4. The food tastes nice.
5. The man grows old.
6. She looks ridiculous in her dress.
7. It smells good.
8. She feels good.
9. It remains safe to keep a secret.

## VERB FORMS

What is a verb form?

A verb form is a specific instance or form of a verb, as opposed to the entire verb taken in the abstract. It is a ***shaped or modified*** form of a verb to ***suit*** the **context** that speaks about its performance at a specific time.

There are six forms of a verb:

1. Base form (root verb, or infinitive),
2. third person singular present form of verb (-s),
3. plural present tense form,
4. present participle (-ing),
5. simple past, and
6. past participle.

All these forms of a verb are categorized into six forms as shown below.

- **Base form**
- **singular verb**
- **plural verb**
- **Present participle**
- **Past**
- **Past participle**

<b>Base form</b>	<b>singular verb</b>	<b>plural verb</b>	<b>Present participle</b>	<b>past</b>	<b>Past participle</b>
Go	goes	go	going	went	gone
Write	writes	Write	writing	wrote	written
Jump	jumps	Jump	jumping	jumped	jumped
Speak	speaks	speak	speaking	spoke	spoken
Talk	talks	talk	talking	talked	talked
Be	is/am	are	being	(was/was/were) been	
run	runs	run	running	ran	run
do	does	do	doing	did	done
Wake	wakes	wake	waking	woke	woken
Go	goes	go	going	went	gone
Take	takes	take	taking	took	taken
Wrote	writes	write	writing	wrote	written
Lie (to sleep)	lies	lie	lying	lay	lain
Draw	draws	draw	drawing	drew	drawn

<b>Base form</b>	<b>singular verb</b>	<b>plural verb</b>	<b>Present participle</b>	<b>past</b>	<b>Past participle</b>
Ride	rides	ride	riding	rode	ridden
Bite	bites	bite	biting	bit	bitten
Mean	means	mean	meaning	meant	meant
Fight	fight	fight	fighting	fought	fought
Kneel	kneels	kneel	kneeling	knelt	knelt
Tell	tells	tell	telling	told	told
Think	thinks	think	thinking	thought	thought
Sell	sells	sell	selling	sold	sold
Teach	teaches	teach	teaching	taught	taught
Cut	cuts	cut	cutting	cut	cut
Hit	hits	hit	hitting	hit	hit

## Exercise

Fill in the gap with the correct verb form of the verb in bracket.

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ everyday. (eat)
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ sick yesterday. (be)
3. Obono and Andres \_\_\_\_\_ together now. (live)
4. Children \_\_\_\_\_ funny at times. (be)
5. The policeman \_\_\_\_\_ the thief now. (arrest)
6. Mr. Fred is \_\_\_\_\_ his car. (drive)
7. The man \_\_\_\_\_ eaten. (have)
8. They \_\_\_\_\_ coming here tomorrow. (be)
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ the book last year. (collect)
10. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ me every weekend. (call)
11. I \_\_\_\_\_ doing my job. (be)
12. The kids are \_\_\_\_\_. (play)
13. The woman \_\_\_\_\_ to the police station this morning. (run)
14. Adam \_\_\_\_\_ to school now. (go)
15. I \_\_\_\_\_ waiting for my sister now. (be)
16. Peter has \_\_\_\_\_. (speak)
17. They \_\_\_\_\_ dancing in the hall yesterday. (be)
18. I have \_\_\_\_\_ to London before. (be)
19. Mr. Nelly \_\_\_\_\_ me Mathematics last year. (teach)
20. The boy \_\_\_\_\_ the girl yesterday. (slap)

## TYPES OF VERBS

Verbs have four different group types. They are;

**A. The types of verbs according to their strengths and functions in the sentence.**

Main verbs and Auxiliary Verbs.

**B. The types of verbs according to their tenses.**

Regular verbs and Irregular verbs.

**C. The types of verbs according to their relationships with the object (i.e direct, indirect or no object) in the sentence.**

Transitive verbs and Intransitive verbs.

**D. The types of verbs according to their nature with the subject in the sentence.**

Finite verbs and Non-finite verbs.

**A. The types of verbs according to their strength and functions in the sentence are;**

1. Main verbs
2. Auxiliary verbs

**1. Main verbs** are otherwise known as lexical verbs. They are the verbs that show real action or state of being. They are noticeably and singly in a group of

verbs to be the base meaning of the group. They exist in various forms, depending on the type of verb that comes before them.

Examples

Go	going	gone
Write	writing	written
Jump	jumping	jumped
Speak	speaking	spoken
Talk	talking	talked
Be (is, am, are)	being	been

*Examples in sentences.*

- i. Smith will go to school tomorrow.
- ii. Smith is going to school now.
- iii. Smith has gone to school.
- iv. Smith does not go to school.

## **2. Auxiliary Verbs**

Auxiliary verbs are otherwise known as helping verbs. They are verbs that are used with main verbs to make their meanings absolute and precise i.e exact and accurate).

### **Types of Auxiliary verbs**

- a. Perfect Auxiliary verbs
- b. Continuous (or progressive) auxiliary verbs
- c. Passive auxiliary verbs
- d. Modal auxiliary verbs
- e. Do-form auxiliary verbs



### **a. Perfect Auxiliary verbs**

Perfect auxiliary verbs are a type of auxiliary verbs that are used with main verbs to introduce the actions or state of being that have been completed at the time of speaking or at the time indicated and still have close connection with the present.

Examples of perfect auxiliary verbs are;

Has, have, and had

*Examples in sentences*

- i. Jean has eaten.
- ii. We have done the work.
- iii. Smith and Sam have been friends for many years.
- iv. I have been to Lagos before.
- v. We have finished our work.

### **b. Progressive Auxiliary verbs**

Progressive auxiliary verbs are otherwise known as continuous auxiliary verbs. They are a type of auxiliary verbs that are used with main verbs to introduce the actions/state of being, showing that the actions or the states are still continuing.

Examples of progressive auxiliary verbs are;

Be, is, am, are, was, and were

*Examples in sentences*

- i. I am dancing now.
- ii. Femi is eating.

- iii. Uche was eating when his father came in.
- iv. Julie is going with her mother.
- v. My father is recuperating.
- vi. We were washing our clothes when the gun sounded.

**c. Passive auxiliary verbs**

Passive auxiliary verbs are a type of auxiliary verbs that are used to introduce passive verbs which have the person, animal, or thing affected by an action as the subject of the sentence.

Examples of passive auxiliary verbs are;

Be, is, am, are, been, was, and were.

*Examples in sentences*

- i. Adura killed the goat. (active voice)

The goat was killed by Adura.

- ii. Ranti wrote a book. (active voice)

A book was written by Ranti.

- iii. Ruben publishes a book. (active voice)

A book is published by Ruben.

- iv. Samuel has broken the firewood. (active voice)

The firewood has been broken by Samuel.

- v. Nelly trained the dog. (active voice)

The dog was trained by Nelly.

- vi. Ted is calling me. (active voice)

I am called by Ted.

#### **d. Modal auxiliary verbs**

Modal auxiliary verbs are a type of auxiliary verbs that are used with main verbs to show their mood. They are a type of a set of verb forms that show whether the action is a fact, an order, a wish, a permission, etc.

Examples of modal auxiliary verbs are;

<b>Present tense</b>	<b>past tense</b>
Can	could
May	might
Shall	should
Will	would
Must	must
Need	needed
Dare	dared
Ought to	ought to

## Meaning and the Usage of the Modal Auxiliary Verbs.

Modal auxiliary	Usage Meaning	Example in sentences
<b>Can/could</b>		
<b>Can</b>	To say that it is possible for sth/sb to do sth, or for sth to happen.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I can run fast.</li> <li>2. Can you call back tomorrow?</li> <li>3. Please, let us know if you cannot attend the meeting.</li> </ol>
	To know how to do sth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. She can speak Spanish.</li> <li>2. I could drive a car before I left school.</li> <li>3. Can he cook?</li> </ol>
	Used with the verbs 'feel', 'hear', 'see', 'smell', 'taste'.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. She could feel a lump in her breast.</li> <li>2. I can hear music.</li> </ol>
	To show that sb is allowed to do sth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You can take the car, if you want.</li> <li>2. You can't wear jeans at work.</li> </ol>
	To ask permission to do sth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can I read your newspaper?</li> <li>2. Can I take you home?</li> </ol>
	To ask sb to help you.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you help me with this</li> </ol>

box?

2. Can you feed the cat, please?

Used in the negative for saying you are sure sth is not true.

1. That can't be Mary – she is in New York.
2. She can't have slept through all that noise.

To express doubt and surprise.

1. What can they be doing?
2. Can he be serious?
3. Where can she have put it?

To say what sb/sth is often like.

1. He can be tactless sometimes.
2. It can be quite cold.

## Could

Past tense of 'can'.

1. She said that she couldn't come.
2. I couldn't hear what they were saying.

To ask if you can do sth.

1. Could I use your phone, please?
2. Could we stop by next week?

To politely ask sb to do sth

1. Could you babysit for us

---

for you.

on Friday?

To show that sth is or might be possible.

1. I could do it now if you like.
2. Don't worry – they could have just forgotten to come.
3. You couldn't have left it on the bus, could you?

To suggest sth.

1. We could write a letter to the director.
2. You could always try his own number.

To show that you are annoyed that sb did not do sth.

1. They could have let me know they were going to be late!

To emphasize how strongly you want to express your feelings.

1. I am so fed up I could scream!

## May/Might

### May

To say that sth is possible.

1. That may or may not be true.
2. He may have missed his

train.

3. They may well win.

Used when admitting that sth is true before introducing another point, argument, etc.

1. He may be a good father but he is a terrible husband.

To ask for or give permission

1. May I come in?

2. You may come in if you wish.

Used as a polite way of making a comment, asking a question, etc.

1. You look lovely, if I may say so.

2. May I ask why you took that decision?

3. If I may add one thing...

To express wishes and hopes.

1. May she rest in peace.

2. Business has been thriving in the past year. Long may it continue to do so.

To say what the purpose of sth is.

1. There is a need for more resources so that all children may have a descent education.

## Might

Past tense of “may” when reporting what sb has said.

1. He said he might come tomorrow.

Used when showing that sth is or was possible.

1. He might get there in time, but I can't be sure.
2. I know Vicky doesn't like the job, but I mightn't find it too bad.

To make a polite suggestion.

1. You might try calling the help desk.
2. I thought we might go to the zoo on Sunday.

To ask permission politely.

1. Might I use your phone?
2. If I might just say something, ...

To ask for information.

1. How might the plans be improved upon?
2. And who might she be?

To show that you are annoyed about sth that sb could do or could have

1. I think you might at least offer to help!
2. Honestly, you might have



done.

told me!

To say that you are not surprised by sth

1. I might have guessed it was you!

To emphasize that an important point has been made.

1. 'And where is the money coming from?', You might well ask!

## Shall/should

### Shall

Used with I and we for talking about or predicting the future.

1. This time next week I shall be in Scotland.
2. We shan't be gone long.

Used in questions with I and we for making offers or suggestions or asking advice.

1. Shall I send you the book?
2. What shall I do this weekend?
3. Let's look at it again, shall we?

To show that you are determined, or to give an order or instruction.

1. He is determined that you shall succeed.
2. Candidates shall remain in their seats until all the papers have been

collected.

## Should

To show what is right, appropriate, etc, especially when criticizing sb's actions.

1. You shouldn't drink and drive.
2. He should have been more careful.
3. A present for me? You **should have!** (=used to thank sb politely).

Used for giving or asking for advice.

1. You should stop worrying about it.
2. Should I call him and apologize?
3. I should wait a little longer, **if I were you.**

To say that you expect sth is true or will happen.

1. We should arrive before dark.
2. I should have finished the book before Friday.
3. The roads should be less crowded today.

Used after I or we instead of "would" for describing

1. If I were asked to work on Sundays, I should

what you would do if sth.  
else happened first.

resign.

Used to refer to possible  
event or situation.

1. If you should change your mind, do let me know.
2. In case you should need any help, here is my number.
3. Should anyone call (=if anyone calls), please tell them I am busy.

Used as the past form of  
“shall” when reporting  
what sb has said.

1. He asked me what time he should come. (= his words were: ‘what time shall I come?’)
2. I said (that) I should be glad to help you.

Used after that when sth is  
suggested or arranged.

1. She recommended that I should take some time off.
2. In order that training should be effective it

must be planned systematically.

Used with I and we in polite requests.

1. I should like to call my lawyer.
2. We should be grateful for your help.

Used with I and we to give opinions that you are not certain about.

1. I should imagine it will take about three hours.
2. 'Is this enough food for everyone?' **'I should think so.'**

Used for expressing strong agreement.

1. 'I know it's expensive but it will last for years.' 'I should hope so too!'
2. 'Nobody will oppose it.' 'I should think not!'

**(why, how, who, what – sb/sth do)** used to refuse sth or to show that you are annoyed at a request; used to express surprise about an event or situation.

1. Why should I help him? He's never done anything for me.
2. How should I know where you've left your bag?
3. I got on the bus and who

should be sitting in front of me but Tony!

Used after 'that' after many adjectives that describe feelings.

1. I am anxious that we should allow plenty of time.
2. I find it astonishing that he should be so rude to you.

Used to tell sb that sth would amuse or surprise them if they saw or experienced it.

1. You should have seen her face when she found out!

## Will /would

### Will

Used for talking about or predicting the future.

1. You will be in time if you hurry.
2. How long will you be staying in Paris?
3. Fred said he'd be leaving soon.
4. By next year, all the

money will have been spent.

Used for showing that sb is willing to do sth.

1. I 'll check this letter for you, if you want.
2. They won't lend us any more money.
3. He wouldn't come – he said he was too busy.

Used for asking sb to do sth.

1. Will you send this letter for me, please?
2. I asked him if he wouldn't mind calling later.

Used for ordering sb to do sth.

1. You will do it this minute!
2. Will you be quiet!

Used for stating what you think is probably true.

1. That'll be the doctor now.
2. You'll have had dinner already, I suppose.

Used for stating what is true or possible in a particular case.

1. This jar will hold a kilo.
2. The door won't open!

Used for talking about habits.

1. She would spend hours on the television.
2. She'll listen to music, alone in her room, for hours.

Used for stating what is generally true.

1. If it's made of wood it will float.
2. Engines won't run without lubricants

## Would

Used as the past tense of "will" when reporting what sb has said or thought.

1. He said he would be here at eight o' clock. (=his words were: 'I will be there at eight o' clock.')
2. She asked if I would help.
3. They told me that they probably wouldn't come.

Used for talking about the result of an event that you imagine.

1. She would be a fool to accept it. (=if she accepted)
2. If you went to see him, he would be delighted.

Used for describing a

1. If I had seen the

---

possible action or event that did not in fact happen, because sth else did not happen first.

advertisement in time I would have applied for the job.

2. They would never have met if she hadn't gone to Emma's party.

**(So that/in order that sb/sth -)** used for saying why sb does sth.

1. She burnt the letters so that her husband would not read them.

**(Wish (that) sb/sth - )** used for saying what you want to happen.

1. I wish you would be quiet for a minute.

Used to show that sb/sth was not willing or refused to do sth.

1. She wouldn't change it, even though she knew it was wrong.
2. My car wouldn't start this morning.

Used to ask sb politely to do sth.

1. Would you mind leaving us alone for a few minutes?
2. Would you open the door for me, please?

Used in polite offers or

1. Would you like a



invitations.

sandwich?

2. Would you have dinner with me on Friday?

( - like, love, hate, prefer, etc. sth/(sb) to do sth / - rather do sth/sb did sth)  
used to say what you like, love, hate, etc.

1. I'd love a coffee.
2. I'd be only too glad to help.
3. I'd rather come with us.

( - imagine, say, think, etc. that ...) used to give opinions that you are not certain about.

1. I'd imagine the job will take about two days.
2. I'd say he was about fifty.

( I would...) used to give advice.

1. I wouldn't have any more to drink, if I were you.

Used for talking about things that often happened in the past. SYN **used to**.

1. When my parents were away, my grandmother would take care of me.
2. He'd always be the first to offer to help.

---

Used for talking about behavior that you think is typical.

1. 'She said it was your fault.'  
'Well, she would say that, wouldn't she? She's never like me.'

(- that...) used to express a strong wish.

1. Would that he had lived to see it.

## Ought to

To say what is the right thing to do.

1. They ought to apologize.
2. They ought to have apologized (= but they didn't)
3. Such things ought not to be allowed.

To say what you expect or would like to happen.

1. Children ought to be able to read by the age of 7.
2. Nurses ought to earn more.

To say what you advise or recommend.

1. We ought to be leaving now.
2. This is delicious. You ought to try some.
3. You ought to have come to the meeting. It was interesting.

---

To say what has probably happened or is probably true.

1. If he started out at nine, he ought to be here by now.
2. That ought to be enough food for the four of us.
3. Oughtn't the water to be boiled by now?

## Need

To state that sth is/was not necessary or that only very little is/was necessary; used to ask if sth is/was necessary.

1. – (not) do sth; you needn't bother asking Rick – I know he's too busy (=you must already know) that the work is dangerous.
2. If she wants anything, she need only ask.
3. All you need bring are sheets.
4. – (not) have done sth; you needn't have worried (= it was not necessary for you to worry, but you did) – it all turned out fine.
5. Need you have paid so much?

## Dare

Used in present tense negative forms and is followed by an infinitive without 'to'.

1. I daren't tell her the truth.

---

**Note:** "*sb*" for somebody, and "*sth*" for something.

### **e. Do-form auxiliary verbs**

Do-form auxiliary verbs are a type of auxiliary verbs that are used to form negative verbs and to form questions with main verbs and also to form question tags.

Examples of do-form auxiliary verbs;

Does, do and did

#### *Examples in sentences*

- i. John does not want to follow us.
- ii. Do you know his name?
- iii. Does he write the note?
- iv. You went to church last Sunday, didn't you?
- v. They don't like their father.
- vi. Smith and Michael did not go to school yesterday.
- vii. He works in Chevron Company, doesn't he?

### **B. The types of verbs according to their tenses**

- a. Regular verbs
- b. Irregular verbs

#### **a. Regular verbs**

Regular verbs are a type of verbs whose past tenses and past participle tenses take "ed". Eg

<b>Verb (present)</b>	<b>past tense</b>	<b>past participle</b>
Plan	Planned	Planned
Consume	Consumed	Consumed
Scorn	Scorned	Scorned
Defend	Defended	Defended
Pronounce	Pronounced	Pronounced
Open	Opened	Opened
Lift	Lifted	Lifted
Answer	Answered	Answered

### **b. Irregular verbs**

Irregular verbs are verbs that do not have fixed form. Their past and past participle tenses are formed in different ways.

#### **i. Different past and past participle forms.**

<b>Verb (present)</b>	<b>Past tense</b>	<b>Past participle</b>
Do	Did	Done
Wake	Woke	Woken
Go	Went	Gone
Take	Took	Taken
Write	Wrote	Written
Lie (to sleep)	Lay	Lain
Draw	Drew	Drawn
Rise	Rose	Risen
Ride	Rode	Ridden

Bite                                      Bit                                      Bitten

ii. The same past and past participle tense

<b>Verb (present)</b>	<b>Past tense</b>	<b>Past participle</b>
Mean	Meant	Meant
Flight	Fought	Fought
Kneel	Knelt	Knelt
Get	Got	Got
Tell	Told	Told
Think	Thought	Thought
Sell	Sold	Sold
Teach	Taught	Taught
Bed	Bedded	Bedded

iii. The same present, past, past participle form

<b>Verb (present)</b>	<b>Past tense</b>	<b>Past participle</b>
Cut	Cut	Cut
Forward	Forward	Forward
Hit	Hit	Hit
Read	Read	Read
Burst	Burst	Burst
Born	Born	Born
Cast	Cast	Cast
Hurst	Hurst	Hurst
Forecast	Forecast	Forecast

Undercut	Undercut	Undercut
Bet	Bet	Bet
Wet	Wet	Wet
Shut	Shut	Shut

iv. The same present and past participle form.

<b>Verb (present)</b>	<b>Past tense</b>	<b>Past participle</b>
Come	Came	Come
Run	Ran	Run
Overcome	Overcame	Overcome
Become	Became	Become



**SOME PAST TENSE AND PAST PARTICIPLE OF REGULAR VERBS AND THEIR – ED  
ENDING SOUNDS.**

<b>BASE FORM</b>	<b>SIMPLE PAST</b>	<b>PARTICIPLE</b>
Accept	Accepted /id/	Accepted /id/
Count	Counted /id/	Counted /id/
Date	Dated /id/	Dated /id/
End	Ended /id/	Ended /id/
Expect	Expected /id/	Expected /id/
Intend	Intended /id/	Intended /id/
Need	Needed /id/	Needed /id/
Plant	Planted /id/	Planted /id/
Point	Pointed /id/	Pointed /id/
Rent	Rented /id/	Rented /id/
Repeat	Repeated /id/	Repeated /id/
Resist	Resisted /id/	Resisted /id/
Start	Started /id/	Started /id/
Visit	Visited /id/	Visited /id/
Wait	Waited /id/	Waited /id/
Want	Wanted /id/	Wanted /id/
Ask	asked /t/	asked /t/
Cook	cooked /t/	cooked /t/
dance	danced /t/	danced /t/
dress	dressed /t/	dressed /t/
erase	erased /t/	erased /t/
finish	finished /t/	finished /t/
help	helped /t/	helped /t/
jump	jumped /t/	jumped /t/
like	liked /t/	liked /t/
look	looked /t/	looked /t/
miss	missed /t/	missed /t/

practice	practiced /t/	practiced /t/
push	pushed /t/	pushed /t/
shop	shopped /t/	shopped /t/
smoke	smoked /t/	smoked /t/
stop	stopped /t/	stopped /t/
talk	talked /t/	talked /t/
use	used /t/	used /t/
Walk	Walked /t/	Walked /t/
Wash	Washed /t/	Washed /t/
Wish	Wished /t/	Wished /t/
Work	Worked /t/	Worked /t/
slap	slapped /t/	slapped /t/
kick	kicked /t/	kicked /t/
knock	knocked /t/	knocked /t/
lock	locked /t/	locked /t/

### Exercise

*Choose the word that has the same sound as the given sound.*

1. /t/    a. think            b. thank            c. slapped
2. /i/    a. cook                b. visited           c. helped
3. /t/    a. waited            b. danced           c. planted
4. /t/    a. called              b. ended            c. planted
5. /i/    a. repeated           b. asked            c. dressed
6. /t/    a. rented              b. danced           c. resisted
7. /i/    a. jumped             b. finished         c. needed
8. /i/    a. blocked            b. danced           c. intended
9. /t/    a. counted            b. pointed          c. kicked

**C. The types of verbs according to their relationship with object (i.e direct object, indirect object and no object) are:**

- a. Transitive verbs
- b. Intransitive verbs

**Transitive verbs:** these are a type of verbs that transfer their action or state of being from the subject to the object in a sentence. They are always used with a direct object, which is affected in a direct way by the action of a verb

### **Examples**

- i. I have read the report
- ii. Jane slapped her.
- iii. She loves me.
- iv. I killed the goat yesterday.
- v. Fred met me in the classroom.
- vi. Jo ate rice.
- vii. They boy read the book.
- viii. I called Fred.
- ix. Nelly emulated his brother's habit.
- x. Donald faced a severe problem when he was in Lagos.

## Two forms of transitive verbs

- a. Active voice
- b. Passive voice

Active voice: This is the form of a transitive verb in which the subject of a verb carries out some action.

Passive voice: This is the form of a transitive verb in which its subject receives the action.

Examples

### **Active voice**

### **Passive voice**

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ii. Kenny kicked the ball. | The ball as kicked by Kenny.  |
| iii. Fred ate the food.    | The food was eaten by Fred.   |
| iv. I understand it.       | It is understood by me.       |
| v. The boy slapped Zainab. | Zainab as slapped by the boy. |
| vi. She drove the car.     | The car as driven by her.     |
| vii. He broke the bottle.  | The bottle as broken by him.  |
| viii. My mother called me. | I was called by my mother.    |

**Intransitive verbs**: these are a type of verbs that do not transfer the action/state of being from the subject. The action or state of being of the intransitive verb remains with the subject. They are without the direct object.

They may not take any type of object e.g

- i. The baby cries.
- ii. He fell.
- iii. The baby will cry.
- iv. The boy danced.
- v. The children played.
- vi. The two boys met.
- vii. Jesus reigns.
- viii. Luis waited.
- ix. Denny bathed.
- x. Peter slept.
- xi. The plant grew.
- xii. The two friends communicated.
- xiii. The pupils improved.
- xiv. The food remains.
- xv. The man endured.
- xvi. The cry persists.

They may take indirect objects. Eg

- i. Throw me the ball.

ii. Give me the pen

iii. He gives him the book.

They may take prepositional objects or adverbs, eg

i. Oliver sweats profusely.

ii. Matt laughed hysterically.

iii. Amor waited for a minute.

iv. Kelvin bathed with toilet soap.

v. James laughed at me.

vi. The plant grew well.

vii. He fell like a mango tree.

viii. The children played together.

ix. The baby cried lachrymosely.

x. The boy cried tearfully and sadly.

xi. The food remained plentifully.

xii. The plant grew gigantically.

xiii. The man endured in all endeavors of his life.

xiv. He slept deadly.

xv. The boy came here.

xvi. The boy came to this place.

**Note:** Some verbs can act as either of the two types of the verbs above (i.e a verb can be of both transitive and intransitive) - the verbs/words of this nature are each called a **polysemous verb/word**. Transitive verbs are marked [T] and intransitive verbs as [I] in the dictionary.

## **C. Types of verbs according to their nature with the subjects in the sentence**

- a. Finite verbs
- b. Non-finite verbs

### **a. Finite verbs (agreement)**

Finite verbs are a type of verbs that make agreement with the subjects of sentences; that is, there must be agreement between the verb and the subject in person, animal, place, thing and their number. In other words, there must be agreement between the verb and the subject in noun or pronoun and their number. Moreover, a finite verb also indicates tense of an action and state of being.

### **Singular and plural verbs**

Verbs are plural when they do not take ‘s’ or ‘es’ at the back (e.g go, come, call, put, etc), while they are singular if they take ‘s’ or ‘es’ at the back (e.g goes, comes, calls, puts, sits, etc)

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
Goes	Go
Comes	Come
Talks	Talk
Calls	Call
Writes	Write
Sings	Sing
Sleeps	Sleep

Promises	Promise
Eats	Eat
Explains	Explain
Shouts	Shout
Cries	Cry
Flies	Fly
Sweeps	Sweep
Complains	Complain
Likes	Like
Loves	Love
Works	Work
Compares	Compare
Washes	Wash
Dries	Cry

**SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT:** If the subject of a sentence is singular, the verb that must follow it must be singular. If the subject of a sentence is plural, the verb that must follow it must be plural.

⇒ **FORMULA**

**SUBJECT + VERB**

**SINGULAR SUBJECT + SINGULAR VERB**

**PLURAL SUBJECT + PLURAL VERB**

### Examples

- i. Paul goes to school everyday.



“Paul” is a singular subject and so takes singular verb “goes”.

ii. We are here.

“we” is a plural subject and so takes plural verb “are”.

iii. I am going home. (present continuous tense)

“I” is a singular subject here and so takes singular verb “am” (there are some cases where “I” is plural).

iv. Betty ate the food.

v. They sing together.

vi. He speaks French.

vii. Mr. Femi Kayode works with chevron company.

viii. Lingo teaches Mathematics.

ix. Jesus reigns all over the world.

## **b. Non-finite verbs**

A non-finite verb is either a participle or an infinitive and so does not show a particular tense. It does not show a particular tense, person or number. It does not have any agreement with the subject in the sentence. Instead, there is always a verb that occurs promptly after the subject which agrees with the subject before a non-finite verb occurs.

Non-finite verbs are of three types. They are;

1. Gerund (verbal noun)
2. Infinitive.

### 3. Participle

1. Gerund: is a verbal noun, ending in “-ing”, that has all the uses of the noun but retains certain characteristics of the verb, such as the ability to take an object or an adverbial modifier. This should not be confused with the present continuous tense of verbs. They are used as subject or object in a sentence.

#### **Examples.**

i. I like praying.

“like” shows agreement with the subject “I” and not with ‘praying’ and ‘praying’ is used as an object.

ii. She started shooting at the age of three.

‘started’ agrees with the subject ‘she’ and shooting is used as an object.

iii. Praying is what I like.

‘praying is a subject.

iv. Reading without light is not easy.

v. Playing is his only exercise.

vi. Giving is a virtue.

vii. Seeing is believing.

### **2. Infinitive.**

Infinitive is a form of verb which expresses existence or action without reference to person, number or tense and can also function as a noun. There are two forms of infinitive. They are;

a. To infinitive

b. Bare infinitive

**To-infinitive:** This is a form of infinitive that come after 'to' which is not a preposition. This form of infinitive is the basic form of a verb. All verbs in the dictionary are defined in their basic forms, that is, in infinitive.

To-infinitive is used after many verbs and also after many nouns and objectives.

The following are the uses of to-infinitive,

⇒ It is used to show the purpose for something. Eg,

- i. I set out to buy food.
- ii. I am going to tell a story.
- iii. She was determined to do well.
- iv. His aim was to become president.
- v. To be honest with you, I don't remember what he said.

⇒ It is used to show the result of something. Eg'

- i. She managed to escape.
- ii. It was too hot to go out.
- iii. He couldn't get close enough to see.

⇒ It is used to show an action that you want or are advised to do eg

- i. I would love to go to France this summer.
- ii. The leaflet explains how to apply for a place.
- iii. I don't know what to say.

⇒ It is used to show something that is known or reported about a particular person or thing. eg

- i. The house is said to be haunted.

⇒ It is used to show one action promptly follows another.

i. I reached the station only to find that my train had already left.

⇒ **Am, is, are, was, were, + to–infinitive** is used to show that you must or should do something. Eg

i. You are not to talk during the exam.

ii. She was to be here at 8:30 but she didn't arrive.

⇒ It is used promptly after noun to qualify it. Eg

i. The land to cultivate is not available.

ii. The room to accommodate us was not large.

⇒ It is used as a noun in a sentence e.g

i. To see is to believe.

ii. To read without light is not easy.

iii. To attain a position is a herculean task.

**Bare infinitive**: This is a form of infinitive that does not have 'to' at the base/back, due to the strength of verbs they come after. They come after modal auxiliary verbs.

### **Examples**

i. I can do it.

ii. We can say the truth.

iii. She will travel tomorrow.

iv. I should be there now.

v. I must prosper.

vi. He may give you.

### **Splitting infinitive**

To-infinitive and bare infinitive are said to be splitting infinitives if and only if they take adverbs at the middle.

### **Examples**

i. I liked to actually follow him but I was busy.

ii. It could not easily open the bottle.

### **3. Participle**

Participle is a word formed from verb, ending in ‘-ing’, ‘-ed’ and ‘-en’, used in compound tense as an adjective.

### **Types of participles**

a. Present participles

b. Past participles

**Present participles of verbs**: They end in “-ing” only. e.g going, coming etc.

Present participle is a verb form that indicates an ongoing action or state in the present and which can function as an adjective.

**Past participles of verbs**: They end in “-ed” or “-en”. Past participle is a verb form (participle) that indicates a completed action or state. It is also called perfect participle.

### **Other uses of participles**

⇒ They are used as adjectives to qualify nouns, and they must come before them.

## Examples

- i. He stabbed me with the broken bottle.
- ii. Give me the boiling water.
- iii. I have determined life.
- iv. These are the corrected mistakes.
- v. These are the drying agents.

⇒ Present participles of verbs are used with progressive auxiliary verbs to show a continuous tense. i.e they indicate an ongoing action or state in the present.

Examples,

- i. I am working.
- ii. They are washing the car.
- iii. She is driving.

## PHRASAL VERBS

What is a phrasal verb?

A Phrasal verb is a phrase, consisting of a verb and either or both of preposition or adverb, that has idiomatic meaning. A phrasal verb, for example “give up”, has idiomatic meaning because “give up” in this **context** means “stop doing” which is different from the meaning of individual words in the phrase “give up”. The word(s) that modify a verb in a phrasal verb is/are called particle (i.e preposition, adverb or both).

Phrasal verbs can be divided into two groups:

1. **Intransitive verbs:** This doesn't take an object.

a. *Inseparable verbs:* this does not split its component words

Eg.

i. They had an argument, but they've made up now.

ii. What are you rabbiting on about?

iii. The plane took off at 2:00 pm.

iv. The party kicked off at 10:00am.

b. *Separable verbs:* with some separable verbs, the object must come between the verb and the particle. E.g

i. The quality of their work sets them apart from their rivals.

ii.

2. **Transitive verbs:** The object must come after the particle. Eg

a. *Inseparable verbs:* this does not split its component words.e.g

- i. They are looking after their grandchildren
- ii. Let us round off the meeting.
- iii. They have called off the strike.

b. *Separable verbs:* with some separable verbs, the object must come between the verb and the particle. E.g

- i. Betty wants to ask Esther out on date.
- ii. How do I ask her out?
- iii. How do I get a shy man to **ask** me out?

**Note:** Some phrasal verbs can be used as both separable and inseparable or transitive and intransitive.

**Polysemy:** Polysemy is the property of a word, sign or symbol that can represent multiple similar meanings. Antonym: **monosemy.**



### Examples of Phrasal Verbs

<b>Transitive</b>	<b>Sepa- rable</b>	<b>Insep- arable</b>	<b>Word Property</b>	<b>Meaning (idiomatic)</b>
Ask in	√		Monosemy	1. To invite somebody into your house.
Ask out	√		Monosemy	1. To invite somebody, especially on a date.
Ask after		√	Monosemy	1. to ask about the health, or progress of someone.
Ask for		√	Polysemy	1. To request. 2. Etc.
Ask round	√		Polysemy	1. To invite someone to your house. 2. Etc.
Back up	√	√	Polysemy	1. Support. 2. Etc.
Blow up	√	√	Polysemy	1. To become angry. 2. Etc.
Break down		√		1. To stop working. 2. Etc.

Break in	√	√	Polysemy	1. To interrupt something. 2. Etc.
Cut off	√	√	polysemy	1. To remove via cutting. 2. etc
Call off		√	Polysemy	
<b>Intransitive</b>	<b>Sepa- rable</b>	<b>Insep- arable</b>	<b>Word Property</b>	<b>Meaning (idiomatic)</b>
Ask round		√	Polysemy	1. To ask different people about something. 2. Etc.
Ask around		√	Monosemy	1. To ask different people about something.
Back up		√	polysemy	1. To support.
Blow up		√	polysemy	1. To become angry. 2. Etc.
Break down		√	Polysemy	1. To stop working. 2. Etc.
Break in		√	Polysemy	1. Interrupt something. 2. Etc.
Break off		√	polysemy	1. To end a relationship. 2. etc.
Sail through Or breeze through		√	monosemy	

### **More examples of phrasal verbs in sentences**

2. Tony brought his father down by his imprudent spending.
3. The discussion had been peaceful before Pierre cut in.
4. Rose has fallen in love.
5. It is time to wrap up the meeting.
6. The bomb blew up without any warning.
7. The crowd broke through the police barriers and attacked the hunters.
8. He breezed in and started shouting at us.
9. She breezed through her exams.
10. When there is a challenge you can successfully tackle with little or no effort, you sail through it and not scale through it.
11. He backed out to days before the holiday so we gave the ticket to his sister.
12. Please bear with me a moment while I finish this email.

## TENSES (verb + time)

Tense is any of the forms of a verb that shows the time of its action or state of being. It is a form of a verb that allows you to express time. The tense of a verb tells us when an event or something existed or when a person did something. The syntactic combination of *auxiliary verb(s)* with a *verb form* results to a tense. However, a word can also represent a tense.

Tenses are of various forms. They are:

### a. The simple present tense

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or the state existing (state of being), that is taking place at the moment of the witness (presently), that is habitual (habit), that is always true (general truth).

(i.) *At the moment of the witness.* Eg

1. Peter goes to church now.
2. The boy cleans the room now.

(ii.) *As an habit.* Eg

1. Simon goes to church every Sunday.
2. Joel visits us every weekend.

(iii.) *To express general truth.* Eg

1. The sun rises from the east.
2. The earth moves in its orbit.

(iv.) *As a state of being.* Eg

1. The mango is ripe
2. The boy is handsome.
3. They are Christians.
4. He seems gorgeous in his cloth.
5. The soup tastes sweet.

### **b. The present continuous tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or the state of being, that has started and is still continuing.

Examples

1. Ruth is writing now.
2. Mr. Kayode is teaching now.
3. Esther is posing now.

### **c. The present perfect tense**

The present perfect is probably the commonest tense in English language, but it is the one students of English usually find the most difficult to learn.

*Characteristics that a student must eventually grasp and understand.*

1. The three perfect tense (present, past and future) express the completion or 'perfection' of an action By given time; not an act done At a given time.
2. The present perfect therefore expresses the completion or 'perfection' of an action by Now.
3. Therefore, it is, strictly speaking, a kind of present tense, because;  
(a.) We are not interested in when the action took place.

(b.) We are only interested in the Present state of completion; i.e its effect on events Now.

So, this tense must never be used if we state or suggest a definite time in the past. This is perhaps the commonest misuse of the tense.

Examples

- i. They have finished the lesson.
- ii. He has eaten.
- iii. Joseph has slept.

#### **d. The present perfect continuous tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being of perfect tense that is still continuing. For instance, someone that ate rice in the morning, afternoon and night can easily say he has been eating rice since morning.

Examples

1. I have been preparing for this jamb examination since I obtained the form.
2. I have been going to church since I was born.
3. I have been a skillful footballer since I was in secondary school.
4. We have been friends for donkey years.
5. I have been good at Mathematics since I was young.

#### **e. Simple past tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being, that started and was completed in the past.

Examples

1. I wrote a book.
2. I travelled to Lagos.

3. John travelled across the street.

#### **f. Past continuous tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being, that was going on in the past, at a particular time.

Examples

1. I was eating.
2. I was eating when you came in.
3. I was sleeping while the phone rang.

#### **g. Past perfect tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses the perfect tense in the past.

Examples

1. I had eaten.
2. I had eaten **before** you came.
3. The man had left the house for Lagos **before** the landlord knew.

(In expressing a sentence of 'past perfect tense', the sentence must not be left open as shown in example 1 above. It must be closed with a subordinate clause or phrase of time.)

#### **h. Past perfect continuous tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being of perfect tense that was still continuing in the past.

Examples

1. I had been eating rice **before** my uncle bought other food and sent to me in the school **last year**.

2. I had been wearing a pair of slipper around **before** I was given a second handled pair of shoes.

### **i. Future tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being next time, which may be minutes, hours, day, week, month, year, etc.

Examples

#### *1<sup>st</sup> person*

1. I shall travel next week.
2. I shall visit you tomorrow.
3. We will go to work next week.

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> person*

1. You will go to school tomorrow.
2. You will take their launch by 12 pm.

#### *3<sup>rd</sup> person*

1. He will call you next Saturday.
2. She will see him there tonight.
3. It will grow in seven days.
4. Everything will be okay.
5. They will come to us on Sunday.

### **j. Future continuous tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being, that will start in the future and still continue.

Examples

1. By this time tomorrow, I shall be travelling to Lagos.



2. By this time tomorrow, I shall be eating.

### **k. Future perfect tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being, that will be perfected in the future.

Examples

1. I shall have finished my chemistry examination by this time tomorrow.
2. They will have washed the clothes by this time next week Monday.
3. I shall have been okay this time tomorrow.

### **l. Future perfect continuous tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being that is perfect and is still continuing in the future.

Examples

1. I shall have been okay as from this time tomorrow.
2. He will have been crawling as from this month next year.

### **m. Past future tense**

This is a form of tense that expresses an action or state of being, that happened in the future of the past.

Examples

1. They would visit your house.

## Conditional Statements

**“Must have”**: followed by a past participle, can be used for saying that you believe something happened in the past. Eg

- They must have missed the train.

They didn't arrive on time. They must have missed the train.

(They must have missed the train as they didn't arrive on time.)

**“Will have to”**: for saying that something will be necessary in the future. Eg

- Chris will have to call me.

Chris needs his documents. He will have to call me.

(Chris will have to call me if he needs his documents.)

**“Should have”**: (there is no past tense): followed by a past participle, can be used for referring to actions that did not happen or for actions that have probably happened. Eg

- I should have brought an umbrella (I did not bring one).

I didn't know it would rain. I should have brought an umbrella.

(I should have brought an umbrella if I knew it would rain.)

- The meeting should have finished by now (it is likely it has ended).

I don't know what the matter is. The meeting should have finished by now.

(The meeting should have finished by now if there is no other matter arising.)

**“Ought to have”**: (there is no past tense): for referring to actions that did not happen but should have, or to actions that have probably happened. Eg

- I ought to have come earlier.

I was held up in a traffic jam. I ought to have come earlier.

(I ought to have come earlier if I was not held up in a traffic jam.)

- They ought to have arrived by now.

**“Might have”**: (there is no past tense): followed by a past participle, it is used for talking about past possibilities. Eg

- The explosion might have been caused by a gas leak.

**“Could have”**: (there is no past tense): followed by a past participle and used for referring to something in the past that was not real, or something that may possibly have been real. Eg.

- I could have been killed.

I could have been killed. A man came and rescued me.

(I could have been killed if a man had not come and rescued me.)

- What was the noise? Could it have been the wind?