

Name:

Class:

What are Helping Verbs?

- **Helping verbs** are words that come **before the main verb** to show **time, tense, mood, or possibility**.
- They “help” the main verb to form complete meaning.

Examples:

- She **is** reading a book.
- They **have** finished their homework.
- I **will** go to school tomorrow.

Common Helping Verbs List

Forms of “Be”	Forms of “Have”	Forms of “Do”	Modals (also work as helping verbs)
am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been	have, has, had	do, does, did	can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must

Remember

- Every complete verb phrase has **at least one helping verb + one main verb**.

👉 Example: She **is singing**.

- Helping verbs **show tense or add meaning** (like time or possibility).
- Some sentences have **more than one helping verb**:

👉 Example: He **has been** working all day.

- The helping verb always comes **before** the main verb.
- Do not confuse helping verbs with main verbs — the **helping verb helps**, the **main verb shows action**.

Examples:

- I am eating dinner.
- She has finished her book.
- They were running to catch the bus.
- We will travel tomorrow.
- You can play after lunch.

Mini Practice

Underline the helping verb and circle the main verb in each sentence

- She is playing outside.
- They have eaten lunch.
- I will call you later.
- He was watching a movie.
- We can dance very well.

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 **Instruction:** Read each paragraph and rewrite it by changing all the gendered nouns to their opposite form.



I

●

● are



He

●

● am



They

●

● has



She

●

● have



We

●

● is



It

●

● were



You

●

● was

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Instruction: Underline the helping verb and circle the main verb in each sentence.

1. The students are studying for the final exam in the library.
2. My brother was driving to the airport when it started raining.
3. She has finished her homework and now she is playing outside.
4. We have been waiting here for more than an hour.
5. I am learning how to play the guitar this month.
6. The children were watching cartoons when their parents arrived.
7. He is preparing dinner for his family in the kitchen.
8. They had completed the project before the deadline.
9. The teacher is checking the notebooks carefully.
10. My friends are planning a surprise party for tomorrow.
11. The bird was sitting on the branch, singing softly.
12. The athletes have trained hard for the championship.
13. She is reading a storybook under the big tree.
14. We were laughing when the lights went out suddenly.
15. The man has repaired the broken chair already.
16. You are speaking too loudly during the class.
17. I was thinking about my vacation last summer.
18. The baby is crying because she is hungry.
19. They will be traveling to another city next week.
20. He has been working here for almost five years.

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Instruction: Choose the correct helping verb from the box and fill in the blanks.

**am is are was were have has had will can could may might
shall should must been being does did**

1. I _____ going to the park after lunch.
2. They _____ reading a new book about animals.
3. She _____ completed her art project on time.
4. We _____ happy to see our grandparents again.
5. The dog _____ barking at the mail carrier loudly.
6. My father _____ working in the garden this morning.
7. You _____ help me with this math problem.
8. The students _____ practicing for the annual concert.
9. It _____ raining heavily when we left home.
10. I _____ seen that movie twice already.
11. He _____ playing chess with his cousin.
12. We _____ studying together for the science test.
13. The cat _____ sleeping near the fireplace.
14. They _____ decided to buy a new car last week.
15. She _____ cooking dinner when her friends arrived.
16. You _____ finish your homework before dinner.
17. The children _____ running around the playground.
18. I _____ never met such a friendly person before.
19. They _____ gone to the beach for the weekend.
20. We _____ celebrate your birthday tomorrow.

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 **Instruction:** Choose the correct helping verb for each sentence.

- She _____ reading a story about space.
(A) am (B) is (C) are (D) were
- They _____ playing outside in the rain.
(A) was (B) is (C) are (D) has
- I _____ learning how to dance.
(A) am (B) are (C) is (D) be
- The children _____ finished their drawing.
(A) has (B) have (C) had (D) will
- My father _____ watching a football match.
(A) were (B) was (C) are (D) have
- We _____ go to the zoo tomorrow.
(A) can (B) have (C) is (D) are
- She _____ working very hard today.
(A) was (B) are (C) am (D) have
- The boys _____ playing in the backyard.
(A) were (B) was (C) is (D) has
- You _____ help others whenever possible.
(A) shall (B) will (C) should (D) may
- He _____ practicing his lines for the play.
(A) are (B) is (C) am (D) have
- The teachers _____ checking the test papers.
(A) has (B) have (C) had (D) was

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 **Instruction:** Add a correct helping verb to complete each sentence.

1. The baby _____ sleeping in her crib peacefully.
2. The students _____ preparing for the science fair.
3. We _____ going to visit the museum on Saturday.
4. The teacher _____ explaining the new topic clearly.
5. I _____ feeling better after taking the medicine.
6. They _____ practicing the dance routine for the competition.
7. She _____ reading a mystery novel right now.
8. My friends _____ waiting outside the school gate.
9. The children _____ laughing at the funny story.
10. We _____ planning a family trip next month.
11. He _____ helping his father in the kitchen.
12. I _____ writing a letter to my cousin.
13. The players _____ training hard for the big game.
14. You _____ speaking too fast; please slow down.
15. The gardener _____ planting new flowers in the park.
16. My parents _____ watching their favorite show.
17. We _____ celebrating our school's annual day.
18. The sun _____ shining brightly this morning.
19. They _____ building a new playground near the school.
20. She _____ doing her homework before dinner.

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Instruction: Find and correct the helping verb mistakes in each sentence.

- She am reading a new book.

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- They is watching TV together.

.....

- I are doing my homework now.

.....

- The boy have finished his work.

.....

- We was playing in the garden.

.....

- He were going to the market.

.....

- The girls has painted the wall.

.....

- My mother were cooking dinner.

.....

- The dog am barking loudly.

.....

- I has seen that movie before.

.....

- They was walking to school.

.....

- He have cleaned his room.

.....

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 **Instruction:** Rewrite each sentence as directed.

- She is reading a book. → (Change to Past)

.....

- They are playing outside. → (Change to Past)

.....

- I am writing a letter. → (Change to Future)

.....

- We are watching a movie. → (Change to Past)

.....

- He is helping his friend. → (Change to Future)

.....

- The children are singing songs. → (Change to Past)

.....

- The cat is sleeping on the sofa. → (Change to Future)

.....

- She is studying for the test. → (Change to Past)

.....

- We are cleaning the classroom. → (Change to Future)

.....

- He is cooking dinner. → (Change to Past)

.....

- They are playing football. → (Change to Future)

.....

- I am painting a picture. → (Change to Past)

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