

Verbs

A verb is a 'doing' or an 'action' word.

- The tense tells us when the action is taking place.

Example;

Present	today/now	verb	<i>I paint a picture.</i>
Past	yesterday	verb + ed	<i>Yesterday I painted a picture.</i>
Future	tomorrow	will/shall + verb	<i>Tomorrow I shall paint a picture.</i>

	Simple (generally)	Continuous (at the moment/ongoing)	Perfect (already completed)
Present	I drive	I am driving.	A have driven.
Past	I drove.	I was driving.	I had driven.
Future	I shall drive.	I shall be driving.	I shall have driven.

FINITE VERBS

A finite verb can stand at its own and does not need an auxiliary verb.

A finite verb must have a **subject**

Number (singular/plural)

Tense

Together with the subject, it makes a complete sentence.

Example: She plays. (subject)

The girl (one) plays. (number)

Today I play. (time)

INFINITE VERBS

WHEN A VERB IS PRECEDED BY A **TO**, IT IS KNOWN AS THE INFINITE.

To play

To argue

The infinite cannot stand alone. It must be preceded by a finite verb.

She **wants** **to discuss** ...

They **start** **to argue**.

The infinite should not be split.

I am going **to** definitely **complete** my work tomorrow. ✘

I am definitely going **to complete** my work tomorrow. ✔

AUXILIARY VERBS

An auxiliary verb is a helping verb.

- It always precedes a verb.

Example: She **has** done her work.

- It regulates the tense of its sentence.

Example: We **could** see the sun rising in the east. (past tense)

Examples of auxiliary verbs

Am are be can could had has have is may might must shall should was were will would

Depending on the sentence, the verb may be classified as a finite or an auxiliary verb.

Example: He **is** the president of his company. (finite verb)

He **is** **hoping** to become the president of his company. (auxiliary verb + present participle)

The linking verb, also called, the verb “to be”

Examples: is am are

A linking verb connects a **noun** with another **noun**, (The man **is** a soldier)

or a **noun** with an **adjective**. (The man **is** brave.)

The word that follows the linking verb is not the object; it is known as the **complement**.



It is a word, clause, or a phrase that’s needed to complete a given expression.

Example: “**Every morning** **is** **a gift**.”

Subject **linking verb**
complement

	Present tense	Past tense	Future tense	Future tense (if adamant or definite)
1 st person (singular)	I am cold.	I was cold.	I shall be cold.	I will be cold.
1 st person (plural)	We are cold.	We were cold.	We shall be cold.	We will be cold.
2 nd person (s & p)	You are cold.	You were cold.	You will be cold.	
3 rd person (singular)	He/she/it is cold.	He/she/it was cold.	He/she/it will be cold.	
3 rd person (plural)	They are cold.	They were cold.	They will be cold.	

Rules for forming the future tense with *will* and *shall*.

The main use of the auxiliary verbs *will* and *shall* is to form the future tense.

Will – When you want to convey the idea that it must happen.

Shall – when it is a statement or to express a command.

Shall is used when it comes to questions posed in the first question.

- Shall I talk to him?
- What shall we talk about?
- Shall I open the window?

