

IELTS Narayananj

PRE-IELTS(VERBS)

Definition of a Verb

The Oxford Learners' Dictionary defines a 'verb' as "a word or group of words that express an action (such as *eat*), an event (such as *happen*) or a state (such as *exist*)". According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a 'verb' is defined as "a word or phrase that describes an action, condition, or experience". The Collins Dictionary provides a much more elaborate definition of a verb. According to them, "A verb is a word such as 'sing', 'feel', or 'die' which is used with a subject to say what someone or something does or what happens to them, or to give information about them".

General Classification of Verbs according to What They Signify

Before we get into a broad classification, let us first have a look at how verbs can be classified generally according to what kind of action they signify.

Verbs Referring to Actions

Verbs referring to action (action verbs) are those that involve the movement of one's body in one way or the other. Some examples of verbs referring to actions are as follows:

- | | | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| • Walk | • Read | • Sleep | • Teach | • Tow |
| • Run | • Write | • Jump | • Present | • Toss |
| • Talk | • Jog | • Sing | • Build | • Hug |
| • Sit | • Cough | • Drink | • Break | • Fight |

Verbs Referring to Experiences or Feelings

These are verbs that refer to something that you can feel or experience and do not necessarily involve a movement of any kind. Some examples of verbs referring to feelings and experiences are as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| • Love | • Feel | • Sense | • Like |
| • Hate | • Entrust | • Know | • Need |
| • Envy | • Experience | • Recognise | • Adore |
| • Believe | • Care | • Understand | • Loathe |
| • Trust | • Cherish | • Comprehend | • Appreciate |

Verbs Referring to a State or Condition

These verbs are those that refer to situations or the state of being. Some examples of verbs referring to a state or condition are as follows:

- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|----------|---------|
| • Am | • Was | • Has | • Seem | • Being |
| • Is | • Were | • Will be | • Become | |
| • Are | • Have | • Appear | • Been | |

The Various Types of Verbs with Examples

Verbs can be classified into numerous types according to their function or role in a sentence or context. Let us look into the various types of verbs and some examples of each type of verb.

Auxiliary Verbs/Helping Verbs

Auxiliary verbs or helping verbs, as the name suggests, is a verb that is used to help another verb sound sensible and meaningful. It is used to change the other verb's tense, mood or voice. So, every time an auxiliary verb is used, you always have one more verb, which acts as the main verb in a sentence.

Examples of auxiliary verbs are as follows:

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| • Am | • Are | • Were | • Has | • Will |
| • Is | • Was | • Have | • Do | • Can |

One point you have to take care of when you use auxiliary verbs is that you should conjugate the auxiliary verb correctly according to the tense form of a sentence. Another specific fact about auxiliary verbs is that they can also be used as a main verb. Also, there are verbs called modal verbs that can be used as a helping verb.

Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs include phrases that are formed by combining two or more parts of speech that performs the same function as a verb in a sentence. In most cases, a phrasal verb results from a combination of a verb and a preposition.

Some examples of phrasal verbs are as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| • Go by | • Run out | • Taken aback | • Look up |
| • Lay off | • Go all out | • Act on | • Mix up |
| • Log in | • Think through | • Back away | • Opt out |
| • Get off | • Fed up | • Back up | • Pop in |

Verb Forms

A verb is used in different ways to indicate the time in which the subject is performing an action. There are various verb forms that are used to do the same. Let us look at the different verb forms explained below.

Root Verb

The raw or original form of the verb, how it originally exists in the English language, without any inflexions or conjugations, is called the root verb.

Some examples of root verbs are as follows:

- | | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| • Eat | • Stir | • Read | • Tick | • Trick |
| • Sit | • Type | • Fry | • Shift | • Sing |

Simple Present – Third Person Singular

The third person singular form of the verb in the present tense is mostly the verb in the singular form. When using the third person singular pronouns such as he, she and it, and the nouns that can be substituted by the third person singular pronouns, the verb is singular (mostly done just by adding an 's' to the root verb) so that it agrees with the subject in the sentence.

For example:

Kenny **likes** to have mangoes after every meal. (The noun 'Kenny' can be substituted with the third person singular pronoun 'he')

The cat **chases** every rat it **catches** sight of. (The noun 'The cat' can be substituted with the third person singular pronoun 'it')

She **hates** going to work on Saturdays and Mondays.

Simple Past

There is a change in the spelling of the root verb when it is used to indicate the simple past tense form of the verb. There is no one rule to write a verb in the simple past tense; it changes for each verb – some verbs like 'give' and 'bring' take a different spelling, and some verbs like 'cut' and 'put' remain the same when used in the past tense. However, most verbs can be made into the past tense by adding an 'ed' at the end of the root verb.

For example:

- The doctor **asked** me to take tablets for ten days. (The root verb here is 'ask')
- Nelson **bought** the car he **checked** out last week. (The root verbs here are 'buy' and 'check')
- The baby **drank** the milk completely. (The root verb here is 'drink')

Past participle

The past participle form of the verb is used to denote the perfect tense forms in a sentence. In some cases, the past tense and the past participle remain the same, but there are a number of verbs that have different spellings when used as a simple past tense verb and a past participle.

For example:

- I have **searched** the entire loft for that box, but I did not find it. (The root verb here is 'search', 'have searched' is the verb in the sentence that indicates the perfect tense and 'searched' is the past participle)
- Dylan had **read** the book already.

In the above example, the root verb here is 'read', 'have read' is the verb in the sentence that indicates the perfect tense and 'read' is the past participle. In this case, all forms of the verb take the same spelling but have a different pronunciation.

Gerunds

Any verb can be transformed into a gerund by adding 'ing' to the root verb. Gerunds, when it stands by themselves, can be used as nouns. A gerund can be used as a verb when used with an auxiliary verb to indicate an action that is continuing at a particular period of time.

For example:

- He is **eating** an apple.
- Joy will be **coming** home next week.
- **Walking** every day is good exercise.
- **Drinking** and **driving** is dangerous.

Infinitives

Infinitives, like gerunds, can be used to turn verbs into nouns by adding a preposition 'to' in front of the root verb.

For example:

- Would you like **to have** something?
- I like **to dance** in my free time.
- I am going **to talk** to my friend.

Active Voice and Passive Voice

According to the position of the subject and object in a sentence, the voice of the verb can be determined. A sentence in which the subject does the action is called the active voice, and a sentence in which the indirect object or the direct object is switched to make it the subject is called the passive voice.

For example:

- Active Voice – The doctor checked the patient.
- Passive Voice – The patient was checked by the doctor.