



- a. I woke up at 7:30 this morning.
 b. Skyler took off his school clothes and put on shorts and a t-shirt.

1. What is the verb in sentence *a*? _____
2. What are the verbs in sentence *b*? _____ and _____
3. Can a verb have more than one word? yes no
4. What kind of verb do you call a verb with more than one word? ph_____ verb

Exercise 2: Nouns and Main Verbs

Highlight the verbs and circle the nouns.

Verbs Nouns

1. 2 / 2 I always take off my shoes before I enter my apartment.
2. 4 / 5 When the bell rang, the students put their books into their backpacks, stood up and went to their next classes.
3. 2 / 4 The teacher turned off the lights and showed a video to her students.
4. 2 / 2 The plane took off and flew into the clouds.
5. 2 / 4 Get on the bus in front of the school and get off at the corner near your house.
6. 4 / 4 I looked up the words I didn't know in a dictionary and then I wrote down the meaning in my vocabulary journal so I could study them later.
7. 4 / 6 When the last *Harry Potter* book came out, people lined up in front of book stores. Some people took off work because they wanted it on the first day.
8. 3 / 6 Some students put off finishing their homework until the last minute. Other students do their homework as soon as they have time.
9. 3 / 2 Please straighten up the room and put away your toys when you finish playing.
10. 6 / 5 When I heard the phone ring, I picked up the receiver, answered the call, talked to my friend and hung up when the conversation was over.

- a. Tom is talking on the telephone.
 b. Tomorrow, we will start a new chapter.

1. How many words does **THE VERB** in these sentences have? 1 2 3
2. What is the **verb phrase** in sentence *a*? _____
3. What is the **verb phrase** in sentence *b*? _____
4. What are the **main verbs** in these sentences? _____ and _____
5. What are the **helping verbs** in these sentences? _____ and _____



6. Do **main verbs** always have **helping verbs**? yes no
7. Do **helping verbs** always come **before** main verbs? yes no
8. What do you call the **helping verb/main verb** pair? _____

Exercise 3: Verb Phrases

Highlight the verbs in the sentences. What is the helping verb? What is the main verb?

1. The baby is crawling on the floor. HV: _____ MV: _____
2. We have to go home now. HV: _____ MV: _____
3. Karen can speak four languages. HV: _____ MV: _____
4. I have lived in the same house all my life. HV: _____ MV: _____
5. My parents are going to move soon. HV: _____ MV: _____
6. You should try the fish. HV: _____ MV: _____
7. Everyone must clear off their desks. HV: _____ MV: _____
8. I will be able to drop off Bob at school. HV: _____ MV: _____
9. Terry has been staying in a hotel. HV: _____ MV: _____
10. These pictures were taken last year. HV: _____ MV: _____

Last night at 6:30, I was watching the news and eating dinner.

1. What are the two **main verbs** in this sentence? _____ and _____
2. How do you know these words are verbs? They end with _____
3. Are all words that end with **~ing** main verbs? yes no
4. What is the **helping verb** in this sentence? _____
5. Do main verbs with **~ing** have to come after the **“be”** verb? yes no

Learning a foreign language takes a lot of time and hard work.

6. Is **learning** a main verb in this sentence? yes no
7. Why not? There is no _____

Susan lives in the dormitory so she has study hall for two hours every night.

8. What are the two **main verbs** in this sentence? _____ and _____
9. How do you know these words are verbs? They end with _____.
10. What verb tense ends with **~s**? _____
11. Do you always add **~s** to verbs in the **present simple** tense? yes no
12. What word in the above sentence tells you to add **~s**? _____
13. What are two other words that tell you to add **~s**? _____ and _____



14. Are all words that end with ~s verbs? yes no

The airplane circled the airport, landed and taxied to the gate.

15. What are the three verbs in this sentence?

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

16. How do you know these words are verbs? They end with _____.

17. What verb tense ends with ~ed? _____

18. Do **all** verbs end with ~ed in the **past simple** tense? yes no

19. b _____

20. Is **go** a **regular** verb? Do you add ~ed to make the past tense? . . . yes no

21. What is the **past tense** of **go**? _____

22. What do you call verbs like **go** that do not have an ~ed form? _____

Exercise 4: Irregular Past Tense

Write the past tense of the following irregular verbs.

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. begin _____ | 11. get _____ | 21. see _____ |
| 2. break _____ | 12. give _____ | 22. shut _____ |
| 3. buy _____ | 13. draw _____ | 23. speak _____ |
| 4. come _____ | 14. have _____ | 24. take _____ |
| 5. cost _____ | 15. know _____ | 25. teach _____ |
| 6. do _____ | 16. leave _____ | 26. make _____ |
| 7. drink _____ | 17. meet _____ | 27. wake _____ |
| 8. drive _____ | 18. pay _____ | 28. wear _____ |
| 9. eat _____ | 19. read _____ | 29. win _____ |
| 10. fly _____ | 20. ride _____ | 30. write _____ |

Exercise 5: Subjects and Verbs

Write the subjects and verbs (main verbs and helping verbs) in the blank.

- Ralph wished [that] the little mice would wake up the night clerk, so he would have an excuse for hiding his motorcycle.
- Catso's paw appeared through the hole in the screen door, but the human beings did not notice.
- He printed a few letters, stared at the ceiling, whispered to himself, and printed a few more letters.
- Finally Karen set her paintbrush across the top of the paint jar and removed her wristwatch, which she laid on the shelf beside Ralph's cage.



5. The housekeeper spoke even more sharply to the maid, who ran the vacuum cleaner so carelessly that Ralph was not even frightened.
6. An alarm clock went off in a lodge nearby, and a boy in rumpled pajamas stumbled out to blow the rousing bugle notes that brought the camp to life.
7. He darted under the television set, where he had hidden his motorcycle and the crash helmet that Keith had made from half a Ping-Pong ball lined with thistledown.
8. Catso discovered a small hole in the craft shop's rusty screen door, which he explored with a paw as if it were a mousehole, but faithful old Sam always arrived to tell him to move on.
9. He found refuge behind a lettuce leaf, where he sat trembling with nerves and fright while he refused to listen to another word of that fearsome song.
10. When Matt returned to the lobby, Ralph watched him go out onto the hotel porch, where he stood for a few minutes among the empty rocking chairs for his nightly look at the stars before he retired for the night.²

Exercise 6: Nouns and Main Verbs

Highlight the verbs and circle the nouns.

Verbs Nouns

1. 3 / 3 The town shriveled and dried up along with the lake, and the people who lived there.
2. 2 / 5 It contained his toothbrush, toothpaste, and a box of stationary his mother had given him.
3. 3 / 6 He had a tattoo of a rattlesnake on his arm, and as he signed his name, the snake's rattle seemed to wiggle.
4. 3 / 5 The truck stopped near where they were digging, and the boys lined up behind it, X-Ray in front, Zero at the rear.
5. 3 / 6 He popped some sunflower seeds into his mouth, deftly removed the shells with his teeth, and spat them into Stanley's hole.
6. 3 / 7 Stanley's parents asked if they could have some time to find out more about Camp Green Lake, but the judge advised them to make a quick decision.
7. 3 / 6 He could explain the situation to the Warden, and the Warden might make up an excuse for giving him the day off, so X-Ray wouldn't suspect.
8. 3 / 6 He scooped up some dirt, and was raising it up to the surface when Zigzag's shovel caught him in the side of the head.

²Taken from *Runaway Ralph* by Beverly Cleary.



9. 3 / 4 Stanley never even thanked him, but now he sat on his cot and waited for Zero to return from the shower room.
10. 4 / 4 He saw a cloud of dust moving across the wasteland and noticed that the other boys had stopped digging and were watching it, too.³

³Taken from *Holes* by Louis Sachar.