**Module** : Grammar **Mohamed Kheider University**

**Level** : First year LMD **Academic Year**: 2020-2021

**Lesson one** : Parts of Speech

1. **Verbs**

A verb is a doing word or a state of being word. It is the most important word in a sentence. No sentence is possible without a verb. It indicates action or a state of being of the subject. There are several types of **verbs** to be studied: **the action verb, the linking verb, and the helping verb.**

**A/** An **action verb** tells what action ( **physical**: *run, move, dance* or **moral**: *believe, dream, recognize*) a subject is performing, has performed, or will perform.

**e.g**. *My* *father* ***delivers*** *packages to department stores each day.*

*I* ***know*** *the answer.* ***Turn*** *at the corner, Jim.*

→ **Every action verb is classed as being either transitive or intransitive.**

* ***Transitive verbs*** describe an action that is happening to someone or something. This person or thing is known as the ***direct object*** of the verb .

**e.g**. carry, catch, buy, sell, heat, prepare, make...

→ The verb is transitive if a word or words in the sentence answer the question “**Who or what did the action of the verb happen to?”**

**e.g.** *The staff manager* ***convoked*** *the engineer. Lilia* ***picked*** *a flower. He* ***kicked*** *a small ball.*

*They* ***affected*** *all of us. The teacher explains the lesson.*

→ transitive verbs can also take [**indirect object**](https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/explore/subjects-and-objects), which are the people or things receiving the direct object. They are called **ditransitive (/daI 'træns∂tIve**/ = used with two objects)verbs (Give, buy, pass, make, sell, take, show, offer, leave, wish, lend, cost).

**e.g**. *John* ***offered*** *Liz a ring.* → *John* ***offered*** *a ring* ***to*** *Liz. .*

**I.O D.O D.O I.O**

*He* ***sent*** *her a letter. She* ***bought*** *him a tie.*

* ***Intransitive verb***s do not have objects. There is nothing and no one for that action to happen to—the action is complete on its own.

(arrive, depart, happen, disappear, rain, fall, go, die, scream, ache, leave, work, listen, ...)

**e.g.** *The students* ***sang****.* *The salesgirl* ***smiled.*** *We* ***talked*** *for hours.*

*I can’t* ***sleep****. Dogs* ***bark****.*

→ Although some verbs are transitive only (destroy, forbid) and others are intransitive only (tremble, happen), most verbs can function as either transitive or intransitive : stop, do, set, run, live, write, wash, meet, open, close, change, start, move, cook, dress, drink.

**e.g.** *The guide* ***explained*** *the danger.* (transitive) *The guide never* ***explained***. (intransitive)

*The choir* ***sang*** *carols*. (transitive) *Peter always* ***sings*** *in the bath*.   (intransitive)

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***Practice 1*: Underline the verbs in the following sentences then decide if they are transitive or intransitive.**

1. They attended the concert last weekend. **2.**  Several cats ran into Bob’s garage.
2. Fast runners won all the awards at the track meet.
3. She was counting the ballots during social studies class. **5**. Check the score, Tom.

**6.** I told you that earlier. **7.** Please, shuffle the cards now.

**8**. Suzanne skated across the rink in Central Park. **9**. Oscar will help Petra with the project.

1. The wall collapsed. **11**. Mary reads a book every week. **12**. He talked for several hours.

**13.** During the war, many people lost their homes. **14**. I swim every day.

***Practice 2:* Identify the direct objects and indirect objects in these sentences.**

1. Please pass Jeremy the salt. **6** . I sent the company an application for the job.
2. The dog chased its tail. **7**. The people watched the game from the bleachers.
3. The storekeeper sent his customer a red carpet. **8**. Can you reach the fruit in that tree?
4. The dog guarded his sleeping mistress and her sick dog. **9**. Jeff threw Mark the ball.
5. The T.V programs have so much violence and gore. **10**.The waiter poured Ann some water.

**B/** **A linking verb** expresses a state of being of the subject. The most common linking verbs are the forms of “to be” ( *is, are, was, were, been, being, am*) and *appear , become, feel, grow, prove, get , remain, look, seem, smell, sound, , taste,* *stay, turn, go.*

These verbs link the subject of a sentence with a predicate nominative (a noun or pronoun that identifies or names) or a predicate adjective (an adjective that describes the subject).

**e.g**. *My sister* ***is*** *a doctor****.*** (The linking verb ‘*is*’ connects the subject *sister* with the predicate nominative *doctor*)

**S.C (subject complement)**

**BUT** → *My sister* ***is*** *studying to become a doctor***.** (In this sentence the word « ***is »***is a **helping verb** for the main verb *studying*)

*That* ***isn’t*** *funny ! It* ***seems*** *possible. You* ***look*** *much better*. (predicate adjectives)

→ Some linking verbs function also as verbs of action :

*He* ***appeared*** *tired****.* BUT →** He ***appeared*** *at the game***.**

*The eggs* ***smell*** *rotten.**→**She* ***smells*** *the flower****.***

*James* ***grew*** *tired after the race.* → *The plant* ***grew*** *quickly.*

*Your project* ***sounds*** *fantastic.* → *The train* ***sounds*** *loudly.*

*The weather* ***turned*** *cloudy.* → ***Turn*** *the page for the exercise.*

**C/** A verb often includes one or more **helping verbs**, called **auxiliary verbs** or **modal auxiliaries**. The verb and its **helping verbs** form a verb phrase. The common helping verbs are ***be*** (*am, is, are, was, were, been, being),* ***have*** *( has, had),* ***do*** *(does, did),* ***may, might, must, can, could, shall, should, will,* *would***.

→ The base form of the verb (called the bare infinitive or infinitive without ‘to’) is listed in the dictionary. It is used in the imperative, negative, and infinitive. **e.g.** ***Stop****!* ***Ask*** *someone to* ***help*** *you. I didn’t* ***finish*** *yet.*

→ We use the auxiliary **‘do’** with the base form of the verb to make questions and negatives in the present and past simple :***Does*** *she feel better ? I* ***don’t*** *know.*

*What* ***did*** *Ann want for lunch ? She* ***didn’t*** *want anything.*

→ We use ‘be’ with the present participle (-ing form) to make continuous forms, and we use ‘have’ with the past participle (-ed) to make perfect forms :

**e.g.** *They* ***were*** *working all night. Andy* ***has*** *finished her work.*

*The comet* ***has been*** *approaching earth for two years.*

*→* **The modals** (modal auxiliaries) have always the same form and come before the base form of the verb to express possibility, prediction, ability, permission, etc.

**e.g.** *I* ***can*** *wait for him. You* ***must*** *leave ! you* ***may*** *lose money.*

*→* **phrasal modals** are verb phrases beginning with ‘be’ or ‘have’ which can be used instead of modals : **be able to** (=can), **have to** (=must/should/ ought to), **beallowed to** (=can/may), **be going to** (=will), **be supposed to** (=should), **have got to** (= must)

**e.g.** *I won’t* ***be able to*** *finish. We* ***have to*** *talk to him.*

*I hope to* ***be allowed to*** *stay. They* ***are going to*** *have a test.*

*The game* ***is supposed to*** *begin at 10 :00 He* ***has got to*** *do it by himself.*

***Practice****:* Decide whether the underlined verbs are **action**, **linking**, or **helping.**

1. She was carrying a heavy bag when she fell down the stairs.
2. Reggie looked confused.
3. That would be a serious question with no easy answer.
4. I feel the penny at the bottom of this pool.
5. The troop had been scattered throughout the woods.
6. I am terribly sick.
7. John slammed the car door on his thumb. He is in horrible pain.
8. Your homemade cooking smells delicious.
9. I am looking for a part-time job.
10. The president waits on the steps of the capitol.
11. Jerry has a large coffee stain on his shirt.
12. Jerry has bought a new shirt to replace the one that was ruined earlier.
13. The crowd stayed calm in spite of the imminent threat.
14. Martin does like very spicy food.
15. Before I could leave, Jane appeared.
16. Jane **appeared** uninjured after the accident.

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