Main and Helping Verbs

Verbs that are made up of more than one word are **verb phrases**. In a verb phrase, the **main verb** names the action. The **helping verb** helps tell the time of the action. Some common helping verbs are *has, have, had, am, is, are, was, were, do, does, did, can, could, will, would,* and *should.*

- The main verb is always the last word in a verb phrase. (The horse is *looking* at me.)
- There may be more than one helping verb in a verb phrase. (She *has been riding* horses a long time.)
- Helping verbs such as *is* and *are* show that action is happening in the present. (Annamae *is reading* about the Navajo.) *Was* and *were* tell that the action happened in the past. (The class *was reading* about the Navajo last month.) *Will* tells that the action is going to happen in the future. (We *will study* the Anasazi next week.)

Directions Underline the verb phrase in each sentence. Put one line under each helping verb and two lines under the main verb.

1. I have ridden horses for years.
2. Right now I am mending my old saddle.
3. Some friends will visit the ranch tomorrow.
4. They have come to the ranch many times.
5. The wind is blowing gently on the range.
6. Within two days, we will have reached the mountains.
7. You can see everything from the mountain.
8. My chores will be waiting for me.
9. My sister is reminding me to take pictures.
10. People from the city should visit the ranch often.

LIVEWORKSHEETS