

Verb Phrases

Reteaching

The simple predicate, or verb, may consist of two or more words. These words are called the **verb phrase**. A verb phrase is made up of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.

A **main verb** can stand by itself as the simple predicate of a sentence.

Many different people lived in the American colonies.

MAIN VERB (action)

The colonists were hardworking.

MAIN VERB (linking)

Helping verbs help the main verb express action or show time.

Ships from England would bring supplies to the settlers.

VERB PHRASE (*Would* is the helping verb.)

Common Helping Verbs

Forms of <i>be</i>	is, am, was, are, were, be, been
Forms of <i>do</i>	do, does, did
Forms of <i>have</i>	has, have, had
Others	may, might, can, should, could, would, shall, will

Identifying Verb Phrases

Write the verb phrase next to each sentence. Include main verbs and helping verbs.

1. The colonists would build a home as quickly as possible.
2. Wood from nearby forests was used for their homes.
3. In later years, some houses were made of brick.
4. Poor settlers could make their furniture from the many trees of the forest.
5. Wealthy families could order fancy furniture from England.
6. The colonists may have brought some tools and household items with them.
7. They did eat some new foods, such as corn.
8. Most colonists would wear rough, homemade clothing called homespun.
9. Adults and children did like games and contests.
10. Sometimes, they might fly a kite.
11. Colonial children might have become good at familiar games such as marbles and hopscotch.
12. You would have recognized some of their favorite playthings—jump ropes, dolls, and other toys.
13. Many families would have been the proud owners of pet cats and dogs.
14. Farm children might have owned a pet lamb or pony.
15. Life in colonial times could be both difficult and fun.