

# Main and Helping Verbs

Helping verbs help the main verb to describe action in a sentence.

## Verb Phrase

A **verb phrase** is a verb that has more than one word.

The people **are telling** stories.  
We **will eat** dinner at 6:00 tonight.

## Main Verb

The **main verb** shows action.

The people are **telling** stories.  
We will **eat** dinner at 6:00 tonight.

## Helping Verb

A **helping verb** shows the time of the action.

Present: **am, is, are**

Past: **was, were, has, have, had**

Future: **will**

The people **are** telling stories.  
We **will** eat dinner at 6:00 tonight.

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# Common Helping Verbs

am	do	might
are	does	must
be	going to	need
be able to	had	ought to
been	had better	shall
being	has	should
can	have	was
could	have to	were
dare	is	will
did	may	would

# Helping Verbs

ELA4CC1c Use helping verbs to vary writing.



Helping Verbs are verbs that come before the main verb in a sentence.



EX: The class is singing.

## The Helping Verb Song

(sing to the tune of "Jingle Bells")

Helping Verbs! Helping Verbs!

There are 23....



Am, is are! Was and were! Being, been, and be!

Have, has, had! Do, does, did!

Shall, should, will, and would!

There are 5 more helping verbs:

may, might, must, can, could!