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|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. pilot | 4. skater | 7. foghorn | 9. movie |
| 2. locomotive | 5. football | 8. Mrs. Wu | 10. Lincoln |
| 3. taco | 6. coins | | |

Verb Phrases

A **verb phrase** consists of at least one main verb and one or more helping verbs. A **helping verb** (also called an **auxiliary verb**) helps the main verb express action or a state of being.

Besides all forms of the verb *be*, the following verbs can be used as helping verbs.

can	do	has	might	should
could	does	have	must	will
did	had	may	shall	would

Notice how helping verbs work together with main verbs to form complete verb phrases.

EXAMPLES **is** leaving **may** become **might have** remained
had seemed **should** move **must have** thought

Sometimes the parts of a verb phrase are interrupted by other parts of speech.

EXAMPLES She **had** always **been thinking** of her future.
Has my sister **played** her new CD for you?

NOTE The word *not* is an adverb. It is never part of a verb phrase, even when it is joined to a verb as the contraction *-n't*.

EXAMPLES She **should** not **have borrowed** that necklace.
 She **shouldn't have borrowed** that necklace.

Exercise 14 Identifying Helping Verbs

Identify all the helping verbs in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE 1. How well did your brother recover from his back injury?

1. *did*

1. Fortunately, he didn't need surgery.
2. His physical therapist has designed an exercise program for him.

Reference Note

For information about **contractions**, see page 381.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use verb phrases.

3. Before exercising, he must spend at least five minutes warming up.
4. He will be using a back-extension machine.
5. Does he walk indoors on a treadmill or outdoors on a track?
6. At home, he will be exercising on a treadmill.
7. The doctor is always reminding my brother about proper techniques for lifting.
8. When lifting heavy objects, my brother must wear a back brace.
9. Should he try acupuncture or massage therapy?
10. Without physical therapy, he might not have healed as quickly and as completely.

Exercise 15 Identifying Verbs and Verb Phrases

Identify all the verbs and verb phrases in the sentences below. Include all helping verbs, even if the parts of a verb phrase are separated by other words.

EXAMPLE 1. We will probably go to the movie if we can finish our assignment.

1. *will go, can finish*

1. Mr. Jensen always sweeps the floor first.
2. Then he washes the chalkboards.
3. He works slowly but steadily.
4. The weather forecaster had not predicted rain.
5. All morning the barometer was dropping rapidly.
6. The storm was slowly moving in.
7. Your dog will become fat if you feed it too much.
8. Dogs will usually eat everything you give them.
9. Generally, cats will stop when they have had enough.
10. After our team has had more practice, we will win.

Exercise 16 Revising Dialogue Using Verbs

Using a variety of verbs can make dialogue more interesting. Rewrite the dialogue below. In six of the ten items, replace *said* with one of the verbs from the following list. In the other four items, choose your own verbs.

wailed	bellowed	gloated	reported
responded	teased	soothed	confessed
exclaimed	replied	whined	accused
snapped	cried	muttered	called
howled	roared	pleaded	snapped

- EXAMPLE**
1. "Mom, I'm home!" said Tony, sprinting in the door.
 1. *"Mom, I'm home!" bellowed Tony, sprinting in the door.*
 2. "I've got great news!" he said.
 2. *"I've got great news!" he shouted.*
 1. "Guess what? I won the spelling bee," he said.
 2. "Honey, that's wonderful," said his mother.
 3. "I spelled 'expeditious' when no one else could, not even Stephanie Greenblatt," said Tony.
 4. "I'm so proud of you," said his mother.
 5. "Who cares?" said his sister Amy.
 6. "You're just jealous," said Tony.
 7. "I am not!" Amy said, running out of the kitchen.
 8. "Don't let her bother you," said his mother. "You should enjoy your success."
 9. "I am enjoying it," said Tony, "but I wish I could share my happiness with Amy."
 10. "She'll come around," his mother said. "Meanwhile, sit down and tell me all about it."

The Adverb

1e. An *adverb* modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

An adverb tells *where*, *when*, *how*, or *to what extent* (*how long* or *how much*). Just as an adjective makes the meaning of a noun or a pronoun more definite, an adverb makes the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb more definite.

Adverbs Modifying Verbs

In the following examples, each boldface adverb modifies a verb.

Where?	When?
We lived there .	May we go tomorrow ?
Please step up .	Water the plant weekly .
I have the ticket here .	We'll see you later .
Put that down .	He arrived early .

TIPS & TRICKS

To identify a word as an adverb, ask yourself:

Does this word modify a verb, an adjective, or an adverb?

Does it tell *when*, *where*, *how*, or *to what extent*?

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and use adverbs.