

Linking Verbs

is

seems

be

am

becomes

been

are

feels

being

was

appears

were

Helping Verbs

is

has

does

can

could

must

be

are

have

do

will

would

may

been

am

had

did

shall

should

might

being

was

were

Identifying Linking Verbs

Linking verbs do not show action. They connect the subject of the verb to more information about the subject.

Sentence with **action verb**

	Action		
Subject	Verb	Object	
John	is	texting	his friends.

Sentences with **linking verbs**

	Link-	(Noun)	
Subject	ing	Subject	
Subject	Verb	Complement	
Lisa	<i>was</i>	a student.	

		(Adjective)	
Subject	Linking	Subject	
Subject	Verb	Complement	
The course	<i>seems</i>	interesting.	

Identifying Helping Verbs

Helping verbs (or auxiliary verbs) come before the main verb in a sentence. They assist the main verb, showing time and meaning.

	Help-	Main	
Subject	ing	Verb	Object
Subject	Verb	Verb	Object
John	<i>is</i>	doing	the assignment.
(Action in progress)			

	Helping	Main	
Subject	Verb	Verb	Object
John	<i>has</i>	completed	the assignment.
(Action completed before now)			

	Help-	Main	Prepositional
Subject	ing	Verb	Phrase
Subject	Verb	Verb	Phrase
The group	<i>can</i>	meet	at the library.
(Potential action)			

	Helping	Main	
Subject	Verb	Verb	Object
Lisa	<i>must</i>	complete	the application.
(Obligatory action)			