

Lesson 10

# Main and Helping Verbs

### STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify main verbs and helping verbs.
- Use helping verbs to express differences in tense.

### Writing Tip

Helping verbs let you show more precise differences in the time that an action occurs.

### Examples

#### Helping Verbs

am	have
is	has
are	had
was	will
were	will be

## Teach/Model

Explain that some verbs need help to show what tense they are.

- Define **main** and **helping verbs**. *Main verbs show the action in a sentence. Helping verbs work with the main verb to show when the action occurs. Helping verbs always go before the main verb.* For example: *The dog was growling at the man.* The main verb is *growling*. Explain that *growling* is the action, and the *-ing* shows it is a continuing action. *Was*, the helping verb, is past tense, so *was growling* shows an action that was continuing in the past. Compare this to *The dog growled.* *Growled* is an action that took place in the past and is finished.
- Write the following examples on the board. Use the modeling to help students.

Example	Model/Think Aloud
Marti <i>was planning</i> a trip. Marti <i>is planning</i> a trip. Marti <i>will be planning</i> a trip.	<i>The main verb is plan. The -ing shows that the action is continuing over a period of time. The helping verbs was, is, and will be tell whether that period of time is in the past, present, or future.</i>
Ted <i>will wait</i> for you by the front door.	<i>The main verb is wait. The helping verb will shows that the action takes place in the future. Ted isn't waiting now, but he will be waiting later. You always need a helping verb to show action that happens in the future.</i>
I <i>have lived</i> here for three years. (and I never want to move) I <i>had lived</i> here for three years. (when my family decided to move)	<i>Have is a present-tense helping verb and shows that the speaker has lived here and is continuing to live here. Had is a past-tense helping verb and shows that the speaker lived here and then stopped living here.</i>

## Guided Practice/Apply

Write these sentences on the board and help students find each main and helping verb. Have volunteers tell when the action happens and explain how they know.

1. We had eaten our dinner before the concert. (*The main verb is eaten; the helping verb had is past tense. The action happened in the past and is completely over because it happened before something else—the concert—happened.*)
2. Six chairs were sitting on the stage. (*The main verb is sitting, and -ing shows it's a continuing action. But the helping verb were is past tense, so the action was continuing in the past for an unknown length of time.*)
3. Sammy will call at 10 o'clock. (*The main verb is call; the helping verb is will, which always tells that the action takes place in the future.*)
4. I am talking on the phone. (*The main verb, talking, shows continuing action; the helping verb am is present tense, so the continuing action happens in the present.*)

Assign **Practice, page 173** for additional practice. Have students check their recent writing to be sure they have used helping verbs correctly.

### Resource Links

2 RDI Book 2: p. 172

SAM Keyword: Helping



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Underline the main verbs and circle the helping verbs.

1. On Saturday, Becky will bake bread.
2. Alex has bought some fresh cucumbers.
3. Rosa is picking raspberries and blackberries.
4. Alison had planted a garden.
5. Maria and her brother have made the salad.
6. They were planning another picnic.

**Main verbs** show the main action in a sentence.

**Helping verbs** help the main verb show more precisely when the action occurs. Helping verbs, such as *am, is, are, was, were, has, have, had, or will*, work with main verbs.

Read each incomplete sentence. Then choose the helping verb that correctly completes the sentence and write it on the line.

7. Eli \_\_\_\_\_ going home. (will, is)
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ going with him. (am, is)
9. Serena and Michael \_\_\_\_\_ seen that movie. (will, have)
10. We \_\_\_\_\_ see it next week. (are, will)
11. The class \_\_\_\_\_ waiting for the teacher. (was, have)
12. She \_\_\_\_\_ promised them a surprise. (have, had)

Write sentences using the main and helping verbs below.

will meet \_\_\_\_\_

had lost \_\_\_\_\_

is talking \_\_\_\_\_

**Resource Links**

**2** RDI Book 2: p. 173

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Use with page 172.