

Name _____

Date _____

Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

A **verb phrase** is made up of a main verb and a helping verb. A **main verb** shows the action. A **helping verb** works with the main verb. The helping verb comes before the main verb.

helping verb main verb

Isabelle **will give** her acceptance speech tomorrow.

helping verb main verb

Mark **should speak** at the rally!

helping verb main verb

Alan **might write** about it in the school newspaper.

Some Common Helping Verbs

am	is	are
was	were	has
have	had	will
can	should	might
did		



1 Show What You Know

Read the sentences. Underline each verb phrase. Label the helping verbs with HV. Label the main verbs with MV.

The school election was held yesterday. Everyone should vote in school elections.

I think Charlie, my best friend, should win the class presidency. He has wanted the job of president since the first grade. He might get his wish today. We should know the results by lunchtime. Charlie did write an acceptance speech this morning, just in case. I was helping him write it on the bus. I will cheer loudly for Charlie if he wins! He might ask me to be his vice president. I will try to do a good job then!

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2 Take It Up a Notch

Read the sentences. Add a helping verb to the main verb below the line. Use any helping verb you would like. Reread the sentences to be sure that they make sense.

This morning the principal _____ **hold** a school

assembly. All of the classes _____ **gather** in the

school auditorium. The teacher _____ **take**

attendance. The students _____ **arrive** on time.

As usual, our principal, Mr. Dunn, _____ **walk**

to the front of the room. He _____ **use** the steps

to walk up to the stage. He _____ **announce** the election

winners. We _____ **cheer** for the winners.



3 On Your Own

Work with a partner to develop a story in which you describe an event you have witnessed. It can be something that happened in or out of school. Be sure to use verbs with as many different helping verbs as possible. After you have completed your description, reread it to be sure you used the main and helping verbs correctly.



TFK Tips for Writers

When you write, reread your paragraphs and compositions to be sure you haven't repeated the same verb phrases over and over. You will want to mix them up to make your writing more interesting. You'll also want to make sure that each verb phrase connects the subject of your sentence to the predicate.