

The Parts of a Verb

A verb may consist of one word or of several words. It may be made up of a **main verb** and one or more **helping verbs**.

Helping Verbs + Main Verb = Verb

am	thinking	am thinking
has been	riding	has been riding
might have	wondered	might have wondered

These are the most commonly used helping verbs.

am	were	has	do	will	could	shall	was	be	have
is	are	had	does	would	may	should	did	can	might

Sometimes the parts of a verb are separated from each other by words that are not part of the verb.

Mark *has* certainly *changed*. Gwen *will* not *run* in the race.

In naming verbs that appear in contractions, name only the verb itself. The words *never*, *not*, and its contraction *n't* are never part of the verb.

I wouldn't be angry. (*Would be* is the verb.) He's whistling. (*Is whistling* is the verb.)

Recognize verbs. Draw one line under the subject of each sentence. Draw two lines under each part of the complete verb.

Example: Sandy doesn't have a locker.

- Gene is wearing a blue shirt.
- The candidate has made that speech before.
- The snow had been falling all day.
- The doctor will see you now.
- New lights have recently been installed.
- Anita has almost finished her report.
- These trees have been sprayed.
- I am writing a letter to the manager.
- The guard didn't leave her post.
- Jeff can't see the stage.
- The horses weren't bothered by the mud.
- Carrie has probably sold her bike.
- Rina had never been to Mexico before.
- She is listening to the weather report.
- This movie has always been shown on the Fourth of July.

