

## HELPING/LINKING VERBS

Helping verbs are such words as:

1. do, did, does
2. have, had, has
3. is, am, are, was, were, be, been
4. can, may, will, shall, must
5. should, would, could, might

Helping verbs always come before main verbs. It is the main verb that is action or linking.

Linking verbs include:

is, am, are, was, were, be, been, and being  
seems, becomes, appears, sounds, smells,  
tastes, feels, looks, grows, remains, etc.

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Linking verbs are followed by predicate nouns and predicate adjectives, sometimes called subject complements. Predicate nouns supply another name for the subject, or they rename the subject. They will be persons or things. Example: **Mark is my friend.** Friend and Mark are the name person. You could say, "My friend is Mark."

Predicate adjectives describe the subject. They are adjectives. Example: **Cathy looks tired.** Tired describes Cathy. Notice that you can substitute *is, am, or are* for a linking verb without changing the meaning.

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Action verbs are often followed by direct objects. They answer *whom or what* after the verb just like predicate nouns will answer *who or what*. You can recognize them because they follow action verbs and do not rename the subject. You cannot substitute *is, am, or are*. Example: The dog bit the mailman.

Sometimes a sentence with a direct object will also have an indirect object. The indirect object comes after the verb and before the direct object. It can be considered the gift sentence because the indirect object generally receives the direct object: the gift. The indirect object will be a noun or pronoun and answers the question to or for whom or what. Example: **I sent him a letter.** *Him* is the indirect object and letter (the gift) is the direct object.

Sometimes a sentence with a direct object will also have an object complement. The object complement follows the direct object and either renames the object or describes it. Examples: **We named him chairperson. She thought him handsome.** The object complement relates to the object the way a predicate word relates to the subject except there is no verb between the object and the object complement.