

## VERB PHRASES

A verb phrase contains the main verb and any auxiliary (or helping) verbs.

A verb by itself is simply a verb. However, when the verb is followed by or preceded by an auxiliary verb (or helping verb), a verb phrase is formed. Thus,

A MAIN VERB + AN AUXILIARY VERB = A VERB PHRASE

Auxiliary Verbs include:

Am  
Has  
Have  
Had  
Be  
Being  
Been  
Are  
Was  
Were  
Do  
Does  
Did  
Will  
Shall  
May  
Can  
Ought  
Should  
Might

EX:

William has been sitting on the couch.

Jack will be watching the game.

Norman had hit his head yesterday.

Mary ought to catch the train.

### QUESTIONS & VERB PHRASES

In questions, the verb phrase may be much more difficult to find, since they may be split between nouns, pronouns, determiners, and other words.

EX:

Are the dogs going to be placed in the back of the truck?

What have you done today?