

Helping Verbs

Helping verbs come before a main verb and add meaning.

Forms of BE (8)

am is are
was were
be being been

Continuous (action in progress)

She **is** running.

Passive (subject receives the action)

The ball **was** thrown.

Forms of HAVE (3)

has
have
had

Present perfect (has, have)

I **have** finished.

Past perfect (had)

She **had** left.

Forms of DO (3)

do
does
did

Questions

Did you finish?

Negatives (with not)

I **do** not know.

Emphasis

I **do** like pizza.

MODALS (9) — always helping verbs

Ability

can
could

I **can** swim.

Permission or possibility

may
might

It **may** rain.

Necessity or advice

must
should

You **should** rest.

Future or willingness

will
shall
would

I **will** help.

Be, have, and do can also be main verbs: She is happy. I have a dog. I do my homework.

Check whether another verb follows. If it does, they are helping verbs.