

Helping Verb Notes

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In the sentence below, circle the subject, double underline the verb, and then diagram the simple sentence to the right.

The boys practice.

What is a verb phrase? _____

a. Main Verb _____

b. Helping Verb _____

These verbs are frequently (but not always) **Helping Verbs**. Remember, you must read in context to determine!

"TO BE" is, am, are, was, were, be, been, being	"TO HAVE" have, has, had	"TO DO" do, does, did	POSSIBILITY can, could, will, would	OPINION must, may, might, shall, should
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HOT TIP! Verb phrases are diagrammed as one whole verb, with the helping verbs on the same line as the main verb.

In the sentences below, a helping verb has been added to the simple sentence from above. Circle the subject, underline the verb phrase, double underline the main verb, and then diagram the sentence to the right. The first one has been done for you.

The boys will practice. *boys | will practice*

The boys have practiced.

The boys could practice.

How do helping verbs make sentences more specific? Take this simple sentence below, for example: *I go to Ski School.*

Time of Action

I was going to Ski School. _____

I am going to Ski School. _____

I will go to Ski School. _____

Possibility

I may go to Ski School.

I might go to Ski School.

I could go to Ski School.

Opinion

I should go to Ski School.

I must go to Ski School.

Practice: Circle the subject, underline the whole verb phrase, double underline the main verb and then diagram the simple subject and verb phrase to the right.

1. Sixth-Graders are studying the culture of Islam.
2. They will be learning a great deal.
3. They will do well on their projects for Islam.
4. They can destroy misconceptions with their new knowledge.