

## MAIN VERBS AND AUXILIARIES

Many verbs consist of more than one word. They consist of a **main verb** and one or more **auxiliaries**, or **helping verbs**. The last word in the phrase is the main verb.

The most frequently used auxiliaries are the forms of **do, be** and **have**. The most common of the other auxiliaries are the following: **must, may, shall, could, would, might, can, will, should**.

AUXILIARY	MAIN VERB	COMPLETE VERB
has	been	has been
is	giving	is giving
should have	played	should have played
could have been	hurt	could have been hurt

Often the parts of a verb are separated by a modifier that is not part of the verb.

          V        V        V        V  
ex. We *had* just *arrived*. He *will* certainly *recognize* us next time.

**Identifying the Complete Verb.** Underline the main verb and the auxiliary verb(s) in the following sentences. Do not include any modifiers.

1. When are you going on your canoe trip?
2. Mr. Costello is constantly giving us directions.
3. Jim should have pitched his tent sooner.
4. Joe could have been badly injured.
5. The new paints are constantly being improved.
6. We will be electing class officers tomorrow.
7. The snowfall had not quite ended at six this morning.
8. I shall certainly miss you next week.
9. Mrs. Barnes has always given generously to charity.
10. The price of most food is rising again.
11. How many books have you read this year?
12. I have already seen that TV program.
13. The old man does not walk to town any more.
14. Nancy and Mark have been given major parts in the school play.
15. Your good deed will never be forgotten.
16. Ms. Smith has definitely agreed to our suggestions.
17. The new club officers will have been chosen by tomorrow evening.
18. You could have gone to the party without me.
19. Mr. Davis has never neglected his work before.
20. Our team could have played in the state tournament.

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