



The Betty East Tutoring Center at Victoria College

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Verbs

Verbs are used to express action or state of being for the subject of the sentence. Verbs can either be transitive or intransitive, and a verb can be used as a helping verb with other verbs. Verbs also vary in tenses, which must match the tense of the rest of the sentence, paragraph, and paper.

Transitive Verbs:

Transitive verbs require a direct object to complete the meaning.

Ex: I *love* my dog.

Intransitive Verbs:

Intransitive verbs do not require a direct object to complete the meaning.

Ex: Athletes *run*.

Helping Verbs:

Helping verbs help form the voice, tense, and mood of other verbs such as: am, is, are, was, were, being, been, do, did, does, have, had, has, can, shall, will, must, etc. The helping verb is always used with an action word.

Ex: The dogs *have been* outside all day.

Ex: The choir *will be leaving* today at noon.

Verb Tenses:

Most verbs form their past tense by adding “-ed” to the word’s end. (love to loved) But, there are some verbs that form their past tense by changing their spelling. These verbs are called irregular verbs. Common irregular verbs include:

Simple Form	Past Tense
feed	fed
find	found
have	had
hear	heard
hold	held
lay	laid
lead	led
make	made
pay	paid
read	read
say	said
sell	sold