Verbs

To be complete, every sentence must have a subject, a verb and a complete idea. The most simple sentence creates meaning with only a subject and a verb or verb phrase.

*For example: I like to read.* (The subject is “I” and the verb phrase is “like to read.”)

Note in the above example that the second verb takes what’s called the **infinitive form**. That means, it has the word “to” in front of it. This is a general rule when you have more than one action verb in a sentence. The second one takes the infinitive form or the participle (-ing) form:

*For example: I like to read. I like reading.*

Use the above rule to sequence the following verbs:

1. I want learn write in English.
2. Maria tries teach me grammar.
3. I like listen carefully to my teacher.

A verb that shows what the subject is doing is called an **Action Verb**. Obvious action verbs are concrete: *run, walk, sing, swim, dance, play, talk, walk*, etc. Don’t forget abstract actions that still count as action verbs: *think, want, like, love, dream, wish, want*, etc.

A second type of verb that follows a subject but that requires an adjective to achieve complete meaning is a **Linking Verb**.

*For example:*

Nancy is nice. You are right. Cabrillo College is wonderful. You seem tired.

Note that in the above examples, all but one uses the linking verb “to be.” This gets conjugated as I am / you are / he (she)(it) is / we are / they are.

The adjective (word that describes a noun) follows the linking verb, which acts as a bridge between the subject and the idea about the subject.

*For example:*

The man appears drunk.

(subject) (linking verb) (adjective)

There is a third type of verb you will find yourself using—an **Auxiliary Verb** (also known as a **Helping Verb**). The helping verb occurs before an action or linking verb in order to give it special meaning.

*For example:*

Ron should do his homework.

In this sentence, the helping verb is “should” and the main verb is “do.”
Note that without the helping verb, the sentence in the present tense would be:

**Ron does his homework.**

As you can see, adding the helping verb “should” changes the meaning of the sentence. Note also that with the addition of the helping verb the main verb changes from *does* to *do*. Why is this? Can you figure out the rule?

To review, there are three types of verbs:

1. __________________________
2. __________________________
3. __________________________

For practice, circle each verb or verb phrase in the sentences below and determine which kind of verb each one is.

1. Monica is my student.
2. She wants to become a teacher.
3. She will be successful.
4. Sergio tries a new sport.
5. He decides to play soccer.
6. The president delivers his State of the Union Address.
7. The public listens with great interest.
8. California has a budget crisis.
9. Our state budget crisis is affecting our schools.
10. We may not receive our tax refunds this year.
11. I had better apply for financial aid.
12. Sara needs to get a part-time job to help her with educational expenses.
13. Sara visited the Financial Aid Office where they told her about the BOG waiver that could cover her enrollment fees.
14. The Financial Aid advisor told her to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
15. We should take advantage of the free health services included in our fees.