

Unit 3: THE VERB

The verb of a sentence can be:

one word	He	works in an office.
two words	He	is working in the office.
three words	He	has been working in the office.
or even four words	He	must have been working in the office.

In the sentences above, **work** (**works** and **working**) is an example of a **LEXICAL VERB**. Lexical verbs give basic information. Every simple sentence has one lexical verb in it.

In the sentences above, the words between **He** and **work** are examples of **AUXILIARY VERBS**. There are not many auxiliary verbs. They are:

do **have** **be**
can **could** **will** **would** **shall** **should** **may** **might** **must**

They are very important because we can use them together with lexical verbs. For example:

AUXILIARY		LEXICAL		AUXILIARY
Where shall	I	meet	you?	
Is	John	coming	to the party?	No, he is not.
He does	not	like	parties,	does he?
Have	they	finished ?		Yes, they have .

We use auxiliary verbs to:

- make a negative sentence (Unit 5)
- make a question (Unit 9)
- give a short answer (Unit 11)
- make a tag question (Unit 12)
- make passive sentences (Unit 43)
- show what we feel about what we are saying (Unit 27)
- and in continuous and perfect verb formations (Unit 15)

To learn about **do**, **have**, **be** as auxiliaries, look at Unit 17.

The other auxiliaries are called **MODAL VERBS**. You can learn about them in Unit 27.