

# Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

A **verb phrase** is made up of a **main verb**, the most important verb in a verb phrase, and one or more **helping verbs**.

Examples:

My teacher *will tell* us about Peru.

Mr. Vargas *has been living* here for twelve years.



**Write the verb phrases from each sentence. Circle the main verb.**

1. Within the next decade, we may be traveling to other planets.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. One of the first stops could be Phobus, a moon of Mars.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Discussions have already been held among scientists in several countries.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In the past, such joint ventures were thought difficult.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. However, many people have changed their thinking and are now rearranging their priorities.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Joint ventures could result in increased understanding between people of different backgrounds.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Mother otters will protect their young carefully.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. In case of danger, a mother will dive below the surface.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. People on otter-watching expeditions should keep their boats a good distance away from mothers and pups.  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Rewrite each sentence, adding one or more helping verbs to the main verb in parentheses.**

10. Peaceful cooperation in outer space (take) people on fantastic adventures in the very near future.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. By the year 2020, scientists (live) and (work) on Phobus.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Perhaps people (learn) to get along when they must live together far from Earth.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. LaKeesha (admire) the sea otters at the aquarium.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Principal Parts of Regular Verbs

The four basic forms of a verb are its **principal parts**. These forms are the **present**, **present participle**, **past**, and **past participle**.

Examples:

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
play	(is, are, am) playing	played	(has, have, had) played
move	(is, are, am) moving	moved	(has, have, had) moved



Write the verb or verb phrase from each sentence. Then identify the principal part of the main verb by writing *present*, *present participle*, *past*, or *past participle*.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Rebecca and her husband traveled to Utah.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>  | <p>7. "I see a river in the distance."</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>  |
| <p>2. He had taken the same route twice before.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>  | <p>8. "We are camping there for the night."</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>   |
| <p>3. She called to her husband.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>                 | <p>9. Hurricanes usually form over the ocean.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>   |
| <p>4. "The sheep are acting very thirsty."</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>       | <p>10. In 1992, Hurricane Albert caused great destruction in Florida and in other parts of the South.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> |
| <p>5. Aaron had worried about the lack of water.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | <p>11. Fortunately, meteorologists are now predicting the paths of hurricanes quite accurately.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>       |
| <p>6. He shouted encouragement to her.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>           |   |



On the lines below, write the principal parts of each of the following verbs: *walk*, *stop*, *hike*, *cry*, *arrive*.

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <p>12. Today we</p> <p>_____</p>     |  |
| <p>13. Today we are</p> <p>_____</p> |  |
| <p>14. Yesterday we</p> <p>_____</p> |  |
| <p>15. Once we had</p> <p>_____</p>  |  |



# Principal Parts of Irregular Verbs

**Irregular verbs** do not have *ed* or *d* added to form the past and the past participle.

Examples:

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
drink	(is, are, am) drinking	drank	(has, have, had) drunk
begin	(is, are, am) beginning	began	(has, have, had) begun

The **past participle** of some irregular verbs is formed by adding *n*, *en*, or *ne* to the present or the past.

Examples:

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
fly	(is, are, am) flying	flew	(has, have, had) flown
grow	(is, are, am) growing	grew	(has, have, had) grown



**Write the correct principal part of the verb in parentheses. Then identify the principle part that you used.**

- To get to the island, the boys had \_\_\_\_\_ before dawn.  
(leave)
- An hour, later they \_\_\_\_\_ themselves at the quiet cove Henry had described.  
(find)
- "It is \_\_\_\_\_ light," said Josh.  
(become)
- Individual rays of sunlight \_\_\_\_\_ through the jungle that \_\_\_\_\_ some thirty feet beyond them.  
(shine) (begin)
- Suddenly an animal \_\_\_\_\_ out of the jungle and \_\_\_\_\_ toward them.  
(burst) (spring)
- "I warned you about the boars!" yelled Henry as he \_\_\_\_\_ toward a tall tree.  
(run)
- "Either you didn't, or I had \_\_\_\_\_ them out of my mind," yelled Josh, jumping back into the boat.  
(put)
- "But don't worry. I'll just sit here until I have \_\_\_\_\_ of how to help you."  
(think)
- Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ through a straw?  
(drink)
- Martin Stone \_\_\_\_\_ out this invention in 1888.  
(bring)



# Principal Parts of Irregular Verbs, page 2



Use the correct past participle of each verb in parentheses.

1. The leaves have \_\_\_\_\_, and the wind has \_\_\_\_\_ them all into a corner of the yard.  
(fall) (blow)
2. I have \_\_\_\_\_ my typewriter and holed up in my study.  
(take)
3. The weather has \_\_\_\_\_ me an idea for a story.  
(give)
4. I have \_\_\_\_\_ ideas like this before, but \_\_\_\_\_ them before I had a chance to work with them.  
(get) (forget)
5. When I have \_\_\_\_\_ this story, I will feel that I have \_\_\_\_\_ more disciplined as a writer.  
(write) (grow)



On the lines below, write the principal parts of each of the following verbs: *break, fly, wear, go, rise.*

6. Today we \_\_\_\_\_
7. Today we are \_\_\_\_\_
8. Yesterday we \_\_\_\_\_
9. Once we had \_\_\_\_\_



Write the past and the past participle for each verb.

	Present	Past	Past Participle
10.	run	_____	_____
11.	say	_____	_____
12.	tell	_____	_____
13.	write	_____	_____
14.	teach	_____	_____
15.	swim	_____	_____
16.	build	_____	_____
17.	speak	_____	_____
18.	hide	_____	_____

