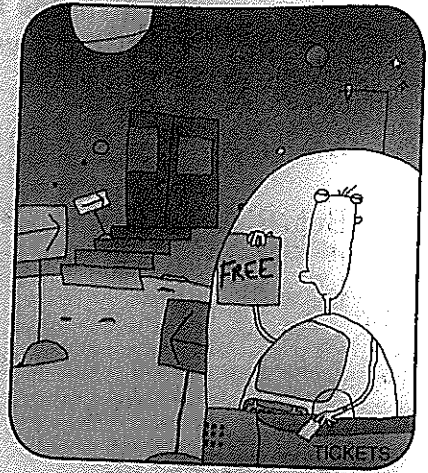


Helping Verbs

Auxiliary or helping verbs come before the main verbs; they help qualify main verbs—telling more exactly when and how the action of a sentence is taking place. Forms of *be*, *has*, and *do* are commonly used as helping verbs. (See 718.3 in *Write Source* for more information and a list of helping verbs.)



Examples

The dance was enjoyed by almost everyone.

(“Was” is the helping verb; “enjoyed” is the main verb.)

The organizers could have sold at least 50 more tickets.

(“Could” and “have” are helping verbs; “sold” is the main verb.)

Directions

In each of the following sentences, underline the verb with two lines. All but two sentences contain auxiliary or helping verbs.

1. However, the gymnasium at Fillmorton Recreation Center had become a disaster area.
2. Three students had been selected as the cleanup committee.
3. They were moving slowly through the debris on the gym floor.
4. They found Moe Epstein’s baseball cap.
5. He may have lost it during his dance with Sasha Seabury.
6. Earlier, they had discovered Rachel Sveum’s retainer under a heap of crepe-paper streamers.
7. She probably lost it during the swing contest.
8. That may have been the highlight of the dance.

Next Step Write three sentences on a subject of your choice. Use a form of the auxiliary verb “be” in one of your sentences and a form of the auxiliary verb “has” in another sentence.

Directions

In the sentences below, underline each helping verb and circle each main verb. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. Everyone should (stay) and (help) with the cleanup.
2. But Rick reminded us that a storm was coming and we had planned to walk home.
3. Larry said he could call his dad.
4. "Maybe he can drive us home."
5. Larry called home, but no one answered.
6. Just then, we heard thunder.
7. A blast of wind cut through the gym and blew trash everywhere.
8. "Okay, I am not walking home in a storm," Debbie said.
9. We were wondering what to do when Larry yelled, "Dad!"
10. We all looked up and saw Larry's dad in the car right outside the gym door.

Next Step Write two or three sentences of conversation between Larry's dad and Larry and his friends on the way home. Use quotation marks correctly; underline the helping verbs and circle all main verbs.