10 Helping Verbs

- The last word of a verb phrase is the main verb. The other words in a verb phrase are **helping verbs.**

	helping verb	main verb
	↓	↓
EXAMPLES: Beth and Jon	**were**	**playing** in their yard.
The manager	**had**	**displayed** the apples.

- The **helping verbs** are:
  am, are, is, was, were, be, being, been **(forms of be)**
  have, has, had **(forms of have)**
  do, does, did **(forms of do)**
  can, could, shall, should, will, would, must, may, might

A **Underline the verb phrase and circle the helping verb in each sentence below.**

1. Mina and Rick (have) begun their spring cleaning.
2. Mina will rake the leaves on the front lawn.
3. Rick must clean the garage.
4. Together they will wash all the windows.
5. Some friends might prepare lunch for the two of them.
6. The cooks should wash their hands first.
7. Sandwiches and fruit salad would make a delicious lunch on a hot day.
8. Their next-door neighbor is working on his lawn, too.
9. He has sprayed his front and back lawns with a fertilizer.
10. Every worker must close the garbage bags tightly.
11. Squirrels, raccoons, and large crows would enjoy the garbage.
12. They might finish the outside work today.
13. You must arrive here by tomorrow.
14. Did anyone like the movie?
15. The painters may paint the side of the house.
16. Jennifer is visiting her sister in Toronto.
17. The guitar player had practiced this piece several times.
18. Who will drive us to the hospital?
19. The actor has read the script.
20. Neal and his co-workers were playing baseball in the field.
21. The school children had begun their homework.
22. She will drive to Chicago.
23. I will eat my dinner soon.
24. Do you want this blue coat?
25. We shall enter the contest on Tuesday.

Answers begin on page 44.

- A verb phrase may have more than one **helping verb.**

helping verbs main verb

EXAMPLES: Bill **should have** **taken** the bus to school.
My plants **have been** **growing** very quickly.

- In a question or in a sentence with a word such as not or never, the **helping verb** may be separated from the main verb.

EXAMPLES: When **will** you **decide** about your bicycle?
Jason **has** not **fixed** his bicycle.

B **Underline the verb phrases and circle the helping verbs.**

1. Our final exam (will be) given on May 10.
2. Many students have been studying every night.
3. My friends and I may be forming a study group.
4. The study group members should be reviewing each chapter.
5. Are you joining our study group?
6. May we meet in your house one afternoon next week?
7. Kim and Tim should have known the answers to the first ten questions.
8. Where have you been all day?
9. I have been looking everywhere for you.
10. I would have met you earlier.
11. The flight has been delayed in Chicago.
12. Would you prefer an earlier flight?
13. I had been enjoying a long visit with my parents.
14. My husband has been waiting for more than two hours.
15. Lois and Jeanine had been at the pool all day.
16. Will any other adults be swimming in the pool?
17. Several neighborhood children must have been splashing each other.
18. Can Jessica and Maria take lessons next summer?
19. We have not signed them up for lessons before.
20. But they have been practicing every day.
21. Will you tell me about these lessons?
22. Has Brenda seen Mary's new sneakers?
23. Brenda had been wanting a pair just like Mary's.
24. However, she will not be upset about it.
25. Brenda will never buy such a costly pair of shoes.
26. Tom has been hitting tennis balls every day at noon.
27. He has not eaten during his lunch time.
28. Jill should have played tennis with him in the evening.

Answers begin on page 44.