

## Helping Verbs (is/are, was/were, has/have)

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As the name suggests, helping verbs, also known as auxiliary verbs, help add meaning to main verbs. Unlike main verbs, which show action and can be used alone in a sentence, helping verbs show no action. Teach your students helping verbs through interesting activities to ensure comprehension of these important parts of grammar.

Helping or auxiliary verbs such as can, will, shall and may are used to alter the meaning of the main verb to show passive voice, modality, emphasis and time. Teaching helping verbs to a class requires repetition and practice. One way to teach these verbs is with an interactive helping verb word wall. Word walls work, because they are interactive, ongoing displays designed for practical and efficient teaching. One of the greatest benefits of a word wall is that they work for visual, auditory and tactile learners.

### Activities:

Write one helping verb on each on a strip of paper with a black marker. The 23 helping verbs are am, is, are, was, were, being, been, be, have, has, had, do, does, did, shall, should, will, would, may, might, must, can and could.

Explain what helping verbs mean and what their job is. Allow the class to ask questions to clarify any misunderstandings.

Give a few sample sentences that use helping verbs.

Use the 23 strips of helping verbs as flashcards, and show the class each one.

Give each student one of the 23 helping verbs. If there are more than 23 students in your class, you may need to repeat a few of the helping verbs. Depending on time constraints, there may not be enough time for each student to get a turn.

Write a sentence on the board, and leave a blank space for the helping verb. Have the student with the correct helping verb come up to the board and use a piece of tape to stick the helping verb in place.

Play a game that requires students to identify the helping verbs in given sentences. On the board, print two lists of basic sentences that each contain a helping verb. Divide the class into two separate teams and instruct the teams to stand in single-file lines near the board. The first player on each team has to read the first sentence and underline the helping verb. If a player is unable to identify a helping verb in the sentence, she must step to the back of the line and allow the next player to go. The first team to correctly underline all of the helping verbs in the sentences wins the game.

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### Helping Verbs in Sentences

- Have your students create sentences that contain helping verbs. Write basic sentences on the board that can be enhanced by adding helping verbs to them; for example, "I go to the store." Invite students to add helping verbs to change or enhance the meaning of the sentence. In the given example, students can add the helping verbs "might" or "must" to enhance the meaning of the sentence.

### Highlighting Helping Verbs

- In this activity, students highlight helping verbs in a text. Provide students with photocopies of short stories, paragraphs or passages and provide them with highlighters. Instruct students to read through the text and have them highlight all of the helping verbs that they see. Once all students have completed the activity, review the helping verbs in the text. Alternatively, you could turn the activity into a competition by having students race to highlight the helping verbs in the text and the first student to complete the task wins.

Read more: [Lessons on Helping Verbs | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/info_8696086_lessons-helping-verbs.html#ixzz1sUccBOWS)

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