



# Verbs

# WHAT ARE VERBS?

- Verbs describe an action or a state of being.
- Example:
  - Mark eats his dinner.
  - We went to the market.
  - You write neatly in your notebook.
  - He is sad.
  - We are happy.

# VERB TENSES

- *Verb tenses tell us when an action takes place. There are three basic tenses:*

<i>Present tense</i>	<i>Past tense</i>	<i>Future tense</i>
<i>Today</i>	<i>Yesterday</i>	<i>Tomorrow</i>
<i>Verb</i>	<i>Verb + ed</i>	<i>Will/shall + Verb</i>
<i>I <u>paint</u> a picture</i>	<i>I <u>paint</u><u>ed</u> a picture</i>	<i>I <u>shall paint</u> a picture</i>

# Types of Verbs

1. Transitive Verbs

2. Intransitive Verbs

3. Finite Verbs

4. Infinitive Verbs

5. Auxiliary Verbs

6. Linking Verbs

7. Regular Verbs

8. Irregular verbs

# 1. Transitive Verbs

A transitive verb takes a direct object (transmit action to an object) and may also have an indirect object:

Eg.

I wrote <sup>Direct object</sup> a letter <sup>Indirect object</sup> to the editor of the newspaper

indirect object/direct object

He sent Robert the letter

# 2. Intransitive Verbs

A intransitive verb is not followed by a direct object

Eg.

adverbial phrase of reason

I wrote out of concern

Not an object but adverb

He complains frequently



## 3. Finite Verbs

A finite verb can stand on its own and does not need an auxiliary (helping verb).

It must have a subject, number and tense.

Eg. (one girl = number)

Subject    simple present tense

The girl plays netball

Subject    simple future tense

I shall drive to town tomorrow

## 4. Infinitive Verbs

An infinitive verb is preceded (in front of the verb) with the word "to".

It cannot stand alone and must be preceded by a finite verb.

Eg.

Infinitive verb because of "to" in front of verb

She wants to play

The infinitive should not be split

I am going to definitely drive to town tomorrow ✘

I am definitely going to drive to town tomorrow ✔



## 7. Regular Verbs

Regular verbs are those verbs that take -ed to form the past tense of the word.

PRESENT TENSE	PAST TENSE
I walk.	I walked.
I wait.	I waited.
We dance.	We danced.
She clap.	She clapped.
He play.	He played.

## 8. Irregular verbs

Irregular verbs do not form the past tense in the same way as regular verbs. They change their spellings.

PRESENT TENSE	PAST TENSE
He sleep.	He slept.
She eat.	She ate.
I sit.	I sat.
He stand.	He stood.
I have.	I had.



# Activity 1: Identify and list the verbs in the following sentences

i.e. They climbed over the fence – climbed is a finite, regular verb

1.1. Sharon and I are the only people here.

1.2. Our fathers were friends.

1.3. Jabu is studying Medicine.

1.4. They will leave at seven o'clock.

1.5. He was in high school when I got the job teaching down the road.

1.6. Sometimes children just do not know what they want.

1.7. She did it long ago.

1.8. Ben watched the movie eight times.

1.9. He always tried to get the rest of us to join him.

1.10. Four men came into the shop and started asking questions.

## Activity 2: Identify and list the verbs in the following sentences and state whether each verb is Finite or Infinitive verb.

2.1. Elize needs to see the doctor.

2.2. Charlize Theron is not a versatile actress.

2.3. Standing on the side of the road.

2.4. I like surfing.

2.5. Would you like to know the time?

2.6. Open the drawer!

2.7. Waiting for the plumber, she tried to remain patient.

2.8. To give him the choice.

2.9. He wanted to cry, but he was beyond emotion.

2.10. How can they help us?

**Activity 3:** Write these sentences in the present tense by changing the form of the verb.

3.1. We always (eating) at the Wimpy when we (going) on holiday.

3.2. Thabo (thinking) that we should (stopping) complaining and get on with it.

3.3. I (needing) to know all the facts before I (making) up my mind.

**Activity 4:** Write these sentences in the past tense by changing the form of the verb.

4.1. Mr Zame (says) that he (wants) to apply for the job.

4.2. At first I (thought) this (is) a good idea.

4.3. We (taking) a vote and (decided) what to do.