

Verbs and Adverbs

Verbs: *Are the action words in a sentence. Doing words.*

Types:

1. Finite verbs: all sentences must contain finite verbs.

These: must have a **subject**. E.g. I, you, we, they [He wrote]

must **make sense** He **writing** - (no sense) = **not** finite

He **to write** - (no sense) = **not** finite

He **written** - (no sense) = **not** finite

He **wrote**. – (sense) = finite verb.

I **am** a student at Wynberg Boys'. I **find** English easy. I **get** high marks. [These are all finite verbs in the **present tense**.]

John **wrote** me a letter. In it he **told** me that he **loved** me. [These are all finite verbs in the **past tense**.]

2. Other types of verbs

➤ **Infinitive** – to + verb [**to tun**; **to jump** – I love **to run** down the hills.]

[to run = infinitive love = finite verb]

➤ **Present participle** – any verb ending in **-ing** [**running**, **jumping**]

While **running** down the hill, I broke my ankle.

[running = present participle broke = finite verb]

I **was** running when I **fell**.

[was running = auxiliary + present participle – together = finite verb]

➤ **Auxiliary** – Helping verbs (**helps the main action make sense in the sentence**)

– am, are, was, were, has, have, had, will, will be, have been, etc. [have written, will write, am writing]

The **auxiliary gives tense to the main action (verb)** – past, future, continuous etc.

3. Auxiliary verb + main action (usually a participle) = finite verb.

I **have written** a letter. [have written = finite verb – past tense]

I **will do** my homework now. [will do = finite verb – future tense]

NOTE: **The Auxiliary verb** is a finite verb in its own right when not used with a participle. Like: I **am** sick. John **was** here. We **are** twins. [am/ was/ are = finite verbs]

***past participle** = the past tense of the verb but it **must have an auxiliary**.

I have **written** a letter. John has **swum** the channel.

The moon has **risen**. We have **walked** a long way.

Please look at the following exercises and complete:

Exercise 1:

Write down all the underlined words and say what type of verb each one is.

- a) Running awkwardly, the fat man b) fell on his face. He c) broke his nose. He d) had e) fallen before but running f) was good for him. He g) needed h) to run often in order i) to lose weight. He j) is now no longer fat because he k) has l) lost twenty kilograms.

Exercise 2:

Write down all the finite verbs. Note: they may consist of more than one word.

1. I sleep on my bed.
2. He pulled out his knife and stabbed her.
3. I think that you are fantastic.
4. There will be a storm tomorrow.
5. I am doing it right now.
6. What were you thinking of?
7. She would have liked to come.
8. The dog has hurt his paw.
9. We have been watching this video all week.
10. She has blamed me unfairly.

Exercise 3:

Supply suitable auxiliary verbs:

1. Do you think that he _____ go?
2. I _____ go if I were you.

3. I _____ be thirteen on Sunday.
4. He told me that he _____ going home.
5. He _____ finished when I arrived.
6. If he _____ had the time, he _____ have done it.
7. At one time I _____ study for eight hours a day.
8. It _____ been a most difficult day.
9. _____ we invite him to the party.
10. I _____ been told that he had a happy disposition.

Exercise 4:

Give the present participle of the verb in brackets. Spelling must be correct.

1. You are (be) stupid.
 2. Father is (shave).
 3. Father was (lie) down.
 4. He will be (tie) a knot.
 5. The clock has been (chime).
 6. The birds are (fly).
 7. The children were (panic).
 8. He is (shoe) his horse.
 9. The rain is (fall).
 10. We shall be (travel) fast.
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Adverbs: *modify/ give more information about the way an action is performed but also qualify adjectives. (We get different types of adverbs)*

- **Manner** (HOW? In what manner?) He spoke **loudly**.
- **Place** (WHERE?) He went **outside**.
- **Time** (WHEN?) he will arrive **tomorrow**.
- **Frequency** (HOW OFTEN?) He comes **often**.
- **Degree** (TO WHAT DEGREE OF EXTENT) He is **highly** indignant.

Please look at the following exercises and complete:

Exercise 1:

Write down the underlined adverbs and say what kind / type each one is.

The two men came here seldom. They knew well of the dangers outside in the forest. Pietro knelt and fixed an arrow in his bow. Tonio could see the wolves clearly. The moonlight shone brightly, and he could see their frosty coast and cruel jaws. He was so frightened. The dark figures were coming straight down the track. "Take the one on the right," said Pietro softly. "Now!" the two bowstrings twanged together. Tonio shot too low and the wolf on the right spun around howling painfully and biting at the arrow in his foot, but Pietro's shot was absolutely true. The black-and-grey figure in the middle went down with an arrow through its heart. The other wolves checked momentarily but then came on. Tonio's next arrow flew wide.

Exercise 2:

Identify the adverbs yourself and say what kind they are. [If there are 2 in one sentence, identify the first one.]

1. The men smoked lazily in the sun.
2. Their parents remained indoors all day.
3. He warmly wished him a complete recovery.
4. His presence in the team is sorely missed. He spoke to her afterwards.
5. He spoke so quickly that I did not hear him.
6. He will be promoted soon.
7. He shivered hard in the cold water.
8. He swam there after school.
9. He ran away.
10. The telephone rang suddenly.
11. The ambulance arrived too late.
12. He has been rather lazy this year.
13. Recently he was appointed to a top position in the company.
14. Joe continuously encourages his team.

Comparison of adverbs

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Soon	Sooner	Soonest
Near	Nearer	Nearest
Smooth	Smoother / more smoothly	Most smooth
Tenderly	More tenderly	Most tenderly
Ill / badly	Worse	Worst
Little	Less	Least
Much/ very	More	Most
Well	Better	best

Exercise 3:

Fill in the correct form of the adverb.

1. He hits (hard) than anyone I know.
2. He controls his temper (well)than James does.
3. He writes (neatly) of all of them.
4. He behaves the (bad) in the class.
5. He deals with problems (thoroughly) than most.
6. Compared to all others, he performs (skilfully).
7. He concentrates (well) than I do.
8. She works (little) than the rest of us.
9. A dog behaved (loyally) than a cat.
10. He can walk (far) than James can.