

HELPING VERBS

THE VERB **BE** USED AS A HELPING VERB:

am is are was were be been

I **am** learning to use a word processor to improve my writing.
The winner of the weekly lottery **is** determined by a drawing.
The Thompsons **are** arriving at eight o'clock.
What **was** delivered this afternoon?
The children **were** beginning to fall asleep when the phone rang.
I **will be** finished in about an hour.
They **have been** gone a long time.

THE VERB **HAVE** USED AS A HELPING VERB:

has have had

The program **has** started; we should hurry.
They **have** begun the program already.
Mark **had** worked for NCR five years before he was promoted.

THE VERB **DO** USED AS A HELPING VERB:

do did does

Yes, I **do** know how to solve that algebra problem.
I hope you really **did** finish your homework.
Jeremy **does** not like mathematics, but he **does** like English.

HELPING VERBS USED FOR THE FUTURE TENSE:

will shall

They **will** begin the performance as soon as they find the tuba.
Once the lumber is delivered, we **shall** begin building.

HELPING VERBS USED TO SHOW CONDITIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

should could would

If the bus is on time, you **should** arrive at school by ten.
I wish I **could** understand these directions.
If you won the lottery, how **would** you spend it?

HELPING VERBS FOR PERMISSION/ABILITY/POSSIBILITY/NECESSITY:

can may might must
(ability) (permission) (possibility) (necessity)

These flowers **can** grow in a shaded area.
John's mother said that he **may** go on the camping trip.
I **might** go to the movie, but I am not sure yet.
I **must** finish this report tonight.

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