

CHAPTER

11

Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

Vocabulary Power

in•au•gu•ra•tion

[i•nô'gyə•rā'shən] *n.*

A ceremony installing
a person in an office.

Verb Phrases

When a verb includes two or more words, it is called a **verb phrase**.

You know that a verb is a word or words that express action or being. A verb phrase is a verb in which two or more words work together.

Examples:

Citizens **are voting** for the next President.

They **will cast** their votes for President on Tuesday.

Voters **must go** to their assigned voting location.

Sometimes the words in a verb phrase are separated. In a question, the subject often comes between words in the verb phrase. The negative *not* can also come between words in a verb phrase.

Sentence	Verb Phrase
Do the candidates plan to debate?	Do plan
Some people will not see it.	will see

Guided Practice

A. Identify the verb phrase in each sentence.

Example: Voting has always been an important part of citizenship. *has been*

1. We have been learning about the election process.
2. U.S. voters have always voted by secret ballot.
3. Each citizen over the age of eighteen can vote.
4. The candidates must explain their ideas to the voters.
5. Voters must get information about the candidates.
6. Each person will vote for his or her preferred candidate.
7. The President's inauguration will happen in January.
8. Our teacher has assigned homework about past Presidents.
9. Students are researching on the Internet.
10. Our school is not holding a mock election this year.

Independent Practice


B. Write the verb phrase in each sentence.

Example: We have learned about President Theodore Roosevelt.
have learned

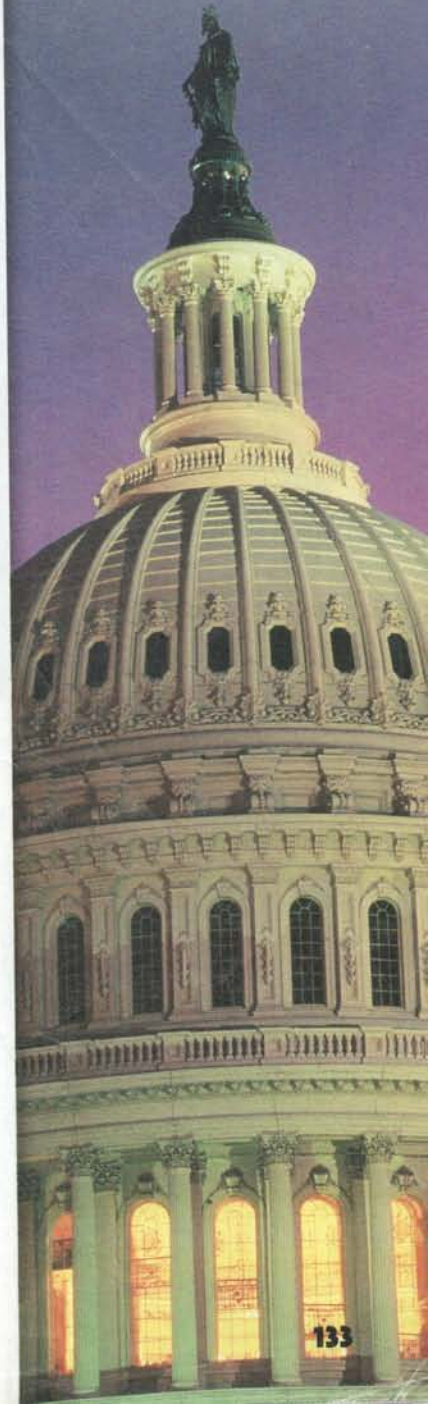
11. In the late 1800s, the United States was becoming a world power.
12. Theodore Roosevelt had become President in 1901.
13. Before that, he had been governor of New York State.
14. He had worked as a rancher in the Dakota Territory.
15. People are still quoting his words about foreign policy.
16. Roosevelt had also made a name for himself as a nature lover.
17. During his presidency, he had created 150 national forests.
18. He was supporting other causes as well.
19. Roosevelt's efforts did help farmers and business owners.
20. Americans have not forgotten his contributions.
21. Voters can choose members of Congress.
22. Many people are listening to the speeches of candidates.
23. The writers of the Constitution have created a separation of powers.
24. The legislative branch can pass new laws.
25. Selecting federal judges might not be an easy job for any President.

Writing Connection

Writer's Craft: Action Verbs Imagine you are a news reporter at the scene of an exciting event. Write a few sentences to tell what is happening—for example, *The helicopter is landing on top of the building.* Use several verb phrases with action verbs.



Remember
that a verb phrase
is two or more
words that express
action or being.



Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

The **main verb** is the most important verb in a verb phrase. A **helping verb** works with the main verb to tell about an action.

You know that the words in a verb phrase work together as the simple predicate of a sentence. The helping verb comes before the main verb.

Example:

Congress **has passed** many laws.

Helping Verbs	Usually with this Main Verb Ending	Example
am, is, are, was, were	<i>ing</i> ending	Tina was helping her grandmother.
have, has, had	<i>ed</i> ending	I have helped her.
do, does, did, can, could, will, would, should, must	no change in the verb	Rishi will help his grandfather.

Sometimes other words, such as *not*, *always*, or *never*, come between a helping verb and a main verb.

Example:

The Supreme Court **has** not always **had** nine justices.

Guided Practice

A. Identify the verb phrase in each sentence. Tell which verb is the main verb.

Example: The Supreme Court has made many important decisions. *has made, made*

1. Courts do not decide all legal questions.
2. A law must not conflict with the Constitution.
3. The court can reject a law.
4. How does it do this?
5. The court has played an important role in our government.

Independent Practice

B. Write each sentence. Underline each verb phrase. Circle each main verb.

Example: Court justices have made important legal decisions.
Court justices have made important legal decisions.

6. Can the President appoint anyone to the Supreme Court?
7. Yes, but the person must win approval by the Senate.
8. Have you heard of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor?
9. She had been a state senator in Arizona.
10. Usually the President will choose someone with a career in law.

C. Choose the helping verb in parentheses that best completes the verb phrase. Write the sentences. Underline the verb phrase.

Example: All courts in the United States (must, have) follow decisions of the Supreme Court.
All courts in the United States must follow decisions of the Supreme Court.

11. This requirement (is, can) provide equal justice.
12. Even the Supreme Court usually (will, may have) follow its past decisions.
13. The court (has, does) not review every legal question.
14. It (will, have) accept only cases about important issues.
15. At least four of the nine justices (are, must) agree to hear a case.

Writing Connection

Social Studies Work with a partner to role-play an interview with a famous President, such as George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. (You might need to find out more about some important events in the person's life.) Write down some of your questions and answers. Use helping verbs as needed to make your meaning clear. Identify the ones you used.



Remember

that a verb phrase has a main verb and a helping verb.

Sometimes other words, such as *not*, *never*, or *always*, separate the main verb from its helping verbs.



Contractions with *Not*

A **contraction** is the shortened form of two words. The negative *not* is often combined with a verb in a contraction.

The verb that is combined with *not* is often a helping verb in a verb phrase.

Example:

Without George Washington, the United States **wouldn't** be what it is today. [The verb phrase is *would be*.]

Notice that one of the contractions below, *won't*, involves a change in the spelling of the verb. In all the contractions, an apostrophe takes the place of the *o* in *not*.

Common Contractions

is + not = isn't

are + not = aren't

does + not = doesn't

do + not = don't

has + not = hasn't

have + not = haven't

can + not = can't

could + not = couldn't

will + not = won't

would + not = wouldn't

Guided Practice

A. Identify the contraction and the verb phrase in each sentence.

Example: Washington didn't receive much formal education.
didn't, The verb phrase is *did receive*.

1. Washington's mother wouldn't send him to England for schooling.
2. After age fifteen, Washington wasn't attending school.
3. His abilities didn't go to waste, however.
4. He hadn't received any military training, but he asked for a place in the army.
5. Washington wouldn't shrink from hardship or danger.

Independent Practice

B. Write the contraction in each sentence. Underline the verb that was combined with *not* in each contraction.

Example: Washington hadn't campaigned for the office of President, but he was elected. hadn't

- Washington served in the colonial legislature, but we don't believe that he made many speeches.
- He hadn't been there long before he met Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson.
- He learned that he couldn't pass laws without patience.
- He wasn't neglecting his home life during this time.
- He wouldn't give up his time with his stepchildren and his wife, Martha.

C. Rewrite each sentence. Use the contraction that is formed from the words in parentheses.

Example: We (can not) imagine how our country would have managed without George Washington.
We can't imagine how our country would have managed without George Washington.

- He (did not) take much part in the debate over the new government.
- At the convention, however, he (would not) let the delegates give up.
- Washington (was not) sure that he should accept the presidency.
- The other candidates, however, (had not) won nearly as many votes.
- The people's choice (could not) have been wiser.

Writing Connection

Technology: Sending E-Mail Figure out how to send e-mail to the White House or to a state or local government office. Then write directions to explain the process to a classmate. You might also give some advice. Include at least one example of what *not* to do and why. Use negative contractions where possible.

Remember

that verbs can be combined with the negative *not* to form **contractions**.

Most of these contractions are spelled by replacing the *o* in *not* with an apostrophe.



Extra Practice

A. Write the verb phrase in each sentence. *pages 132–133*

Example: George Washington had been a military man before he became President. *had been*

1. Before his presidency, Dwight Eisenhower had pursued a military career.
2. Early in his career, “Ike” Eisenhower had shown great skill with people.
3. He had led people from different nations.
4. In 1948, he had taken a position as a university president.
5. He did not yet feel ready for politics.
6. Two years later, he had returned to the military.
7. He was doing a different job this time.
8. Eisenhower still was enjoying great popularity.
9. To his political party, he would be the perfect candidate.
10. He would win two terms as President easily.

B. Write each sentence below. Underline each verb phrase. Circle each main verb. *pages 134–135*

Example: James Earl “Jimmy” Carter has been a successful farmer as well as a politician.

James Earl “Jimmy” Carter has been a successful farmer as well as a politician.

11. Carter had dreamed of a naval career.
12. In 1942, he was starting his naval career.
13. He soon had chosen submarine duty.
14. In 1953, Carter was doing well in the navy.
15. His family was asking for his help with the family farm in Georgia, however.
16. Before long, he had left the navy.
17. The family farm and business were growing quickly under Carter’s management.
18. People were encouraging Carter’s interest in the field of politics.
19. By 1962 his political career in the Georgia state senate had begun.
20. Fourteen years later, the voters would elect him President.

 Remember

that the most important word in a verb phrase is the main verb. Other words in the verb phrase are helping verbs.

For more activities
with verb phrases
and contractions,
visit

The Learning Site:

www.harcourtschool.com

C. Rewrite each sentence. Use the contraction that is formed from the words in parentheses. pages 136–137

Example: Historians (can not) ignore Woodrow Wilson.
Historians can't ignore Woodrow Wilson.

21. He (was not) just a champion of world peace.
22. As president of Princeton University, he (did not) shrink from change.
23. Wilson (could not) push through all his ideas.
24. It (is not) surprising that he left to work in politics.
25. His years at Princeton (were not) a handicap.
26. Without his powerful speeches, he (would not) have been elected governor of New Jersey.
27. He (had not) been governor long before he ran for President.
28. At his inauguration, Wilson saw that people (were not) allowed near him.
29. Wilson (did not) want the people held back.
30. Many of his ideas (have not) lost their importance.

D. Rewrite each sentence, correcting the errors.

pages 136–137

31. Before 1920, most women still could'nt vote.
32. Presidents and members of Congress didnt' think the issue was important.
33. Women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony hadnt given up.
34. U.S. history woul'dnt be the same without Stanton and Anthony.
35. Their efforts wont' be forgotten.

Writing Connection



Writer's Journal: Writing Ideas Brainstorm a list of things you know how to do or make. Exchange lists with a partner. Choose two topics on your partner's list that you would be interested in reading about. Write a few sentences to explain your choices to your partner. Use helping verbs as needed to make your meaning clear. Be sure to put apostrophes in any contractions you use.

DID YOU KNOW?

About 10,000 bills, or possible laws, are introduced in each two-year session of Congress. Of the bills, only about 650 (or 6.5%) actually become laws.



Chapter Review

For Numbers 1, 2, and 3, find the word or words that best complete the sentence.

- 1 Next month, the people of our community ____ a new mayor.
 A were electing C will elect
 B had elected D did elect
- 2 We ____ the issues, and we have chosen the best candidate.
 F will study H are studying
 G have studied J is studying
- 3 The city's fire and police services ____ important issues lately.
 A becoming C have become
 B will become D are become

For Numbers 4, 5, and 6, find the words that best complete the sentences.

Leaders in a city or county (4) for today and tomorrow. They (5), for example, whether to fix the roads this year or next year. The roads (6) in good condition for drivers.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 4 F does always plan | 6 F has been |
| G has always planned | G should be |
| H was always planning | H are being |
| J are always planning | J did been |
- 5 A were decided
 B has decided
 C have decided
 D must decide

**STANDARDIZED
TEST PREP**

TIP Remember that you can usually recognize mistakes in grammar when you hear them. Say each choice to yourself before choosing the answer.



For additional test preparation, visit
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Using Encyclopedias and Periodicals

STUDY
SKILLS

Encyclopedias and **periodicals** are sources of information that you use to find facts about a subject. Periodicals are publications that appear monthly, weekly, or daily. They include magazines and newspapers.

An **encyclopedia** is a good place to start if you have a broad or general topic. It is organized alphabetically. An encyclopedia also has an index that lists all the topics alphabetically. Some encyclopedias come in computer versions. On the computer, you can do a **key word search**. The computer uses key words to find articles that are related to your topic.

For narrower topics, especially current events, you may not find information in an encyclopedia. **Magazines** and **newspapers** are good resources for topics about current events. There are guides to periodicals that list articles by subject. Computerized guides are organized like a card catalog. If your library does not have a computerized guide, you may use a printed guide.

Each listing in a guide to periodicals gives the following information about an article: title, author, source (title of newspaper or magazine), date, volume, and page numbers. Ask a librarian to help you find the articles you need.

YOUR TURN

RESEARCHING On a sheet of paper, write each of the topics below. List your best guess about where to find information on each topic. Then go to the library and check your guesses.

- Abigail Adams
- a review of a new movie
- the Declaration of Independence
- the Library of Congress

TIP Different reference materials have different purposes. When you are looking for information, try more than one reference source. If you need help finding the right source, ask a librarian.