

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Helping Verbs

### Reading/discussion

Do you remember learning about verbs? Verbs are doing words. We cannot make a sentence without using verbs. Look at this sentence:

- The boy ran.

The word **ran** is the doing word or the **action verb**. Today, we are going to learn about another kind of verb. This verb is called a **helping verb** or an **auxiliary verb**. There are 23 helping verbs:

am	do	must
are	does	shall
be	had	should
been	has	was
being	have	were
can	is	will
could	may	would
did	might	

Many helping verbs are used together, such as: have been and should have. When a verb changes its form, it usually needs a helping verb: For example:

1. When we add 'n' or 'en' to a verb:

- I write - I have written.
- I broke - I have broken.

2. When the main verb ends in '-ing':

- I run - I am running.
- I jump - I was jumping.

3. When the spelling of the verb changes:

- I came - I will come.
- I saw - I have seen.

Like most English grammar rules, there are many exceptions to these rules as well. It is best to try to learn the verbs that we use most often.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities

**Activity A:** Find the helping verbs. Underline the helping verbs in the following sentences:

1. I am finishing my homework.
2. All my friends had gone to the party.
3. I have worn these jeans a million times!
4. My little sister is playing with her friends.
5. We are going to the movies.
6. I was drawing a picture for my teacher.
7. I will be learning hard for my test this afternoon.
8. My brother has eaten all the cookies.
9. The ice cream is frozen solid.
10. I have seen the Northern Lights.

**Activity B:** Change the form of the verb after the helping verb. The first one has been done for you:

- |                                       |                                        |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. I wrote a letter.                  | I have <b>written</b> a letter.        |
| 2. I fell out of the tree.            | I had ..... out of the tree.           |
| 3. He broke the ice.                  | He will ..... the ice.                 |
| 4. Grandma gave me a gift.            | Grandma will ..... me a gift.          |
| 5. He grew peas and carrots.          | He has ..... peas and carrots.         |
| 6. She goes to school.                | She is ..... to school.                |
| 7. I ate a pizza slice.               | I am ..... a pizza slice.              |
| 8. The vase broke when he dropped it. | The vase was ..... when he dropped it. |

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## Answer Key

### Activity A

1. I am finishing my homework.
2. All my friends had gone to the party.
3. I have worn these jeans a million times!
4. My little sister is playing with her friends.
5. We are going to the movies.
6. I was drawing a picture for my teacher.
7. I will be learning hard for my test this afternoon.
8. My brother has eaten all the cookies.
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10. I have seen the Northern Lights.

### Activity B

- |                                       |                                                |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. I wrote a letter.                  | I have <b>written</b> a letter.                |
| 2. I fell out of the tree.            | I had <b>fallen</b> out of the tree.           |
| 3. He broke the ice.                  | He will <b>break</b> the ice.                  |
| 4. Grandma gave me a gift.            | Grandma will <b>give</b> me a gift.            |
| 5. He grew peas and carrots.          | He has <b>grown</b> peas and carrots.          |
| 6. She goes to school.                | She is <b>going</b> to school.                 |
| 7. I ate a pizza slice.               | I am <b>eating</b> a pizza slice.              |
| 8. The vase broke when he dropped it. | The vase was <b>broken</b> when he dropped it. |