

# VERBS

## Action Verbs, Linking Verbs, and Helping Verbs

## ACTION VERBS

- An action verb tells what the subject of a sentence does.
  - The action can be a **physical or mental** action.
  - Examples:
    - Early humans *moved* constantly.
    - They *carried* their few possessions with them.
    - These people *worried* about survival.
    - They *feared* large animals.



## LINKING VERBS

- A linking verb links the subject of a sentence to another **noun** or **adjective** in the predicate.
  - Linking verbs do not show action!
  - Examples:
    - Her baby *is* cute!
    - That man *was* my fourth grade teacher.
    - We *were* tired after the game.



## LINKING VERBS

- There are 18 common linking verbs:

am

smell

remain

are

look

grow

is

taste

become

was

appear

seem

were

feel

be

sound

being

been



## ACTION VERBS VS. LINKING VERBS

- Some linking verbs can also be action verbs!  
(grow, feel, look, remain, smell, appear, taste)
- You have to look at what the verb is doing in the sentence to tell if it acting as an action verb or a linking verb.
  - Examples:
    - The girl *smelled* the roses in the garden.
    - This pie *smells* yummy!



## HELPING VERBS

- A helping verb helps main verbs (action or linking verbs) express action or show tense.
  - The helping verb always comes **before** the main verb.
  - There can be **more than one** helping verb before a main verb.



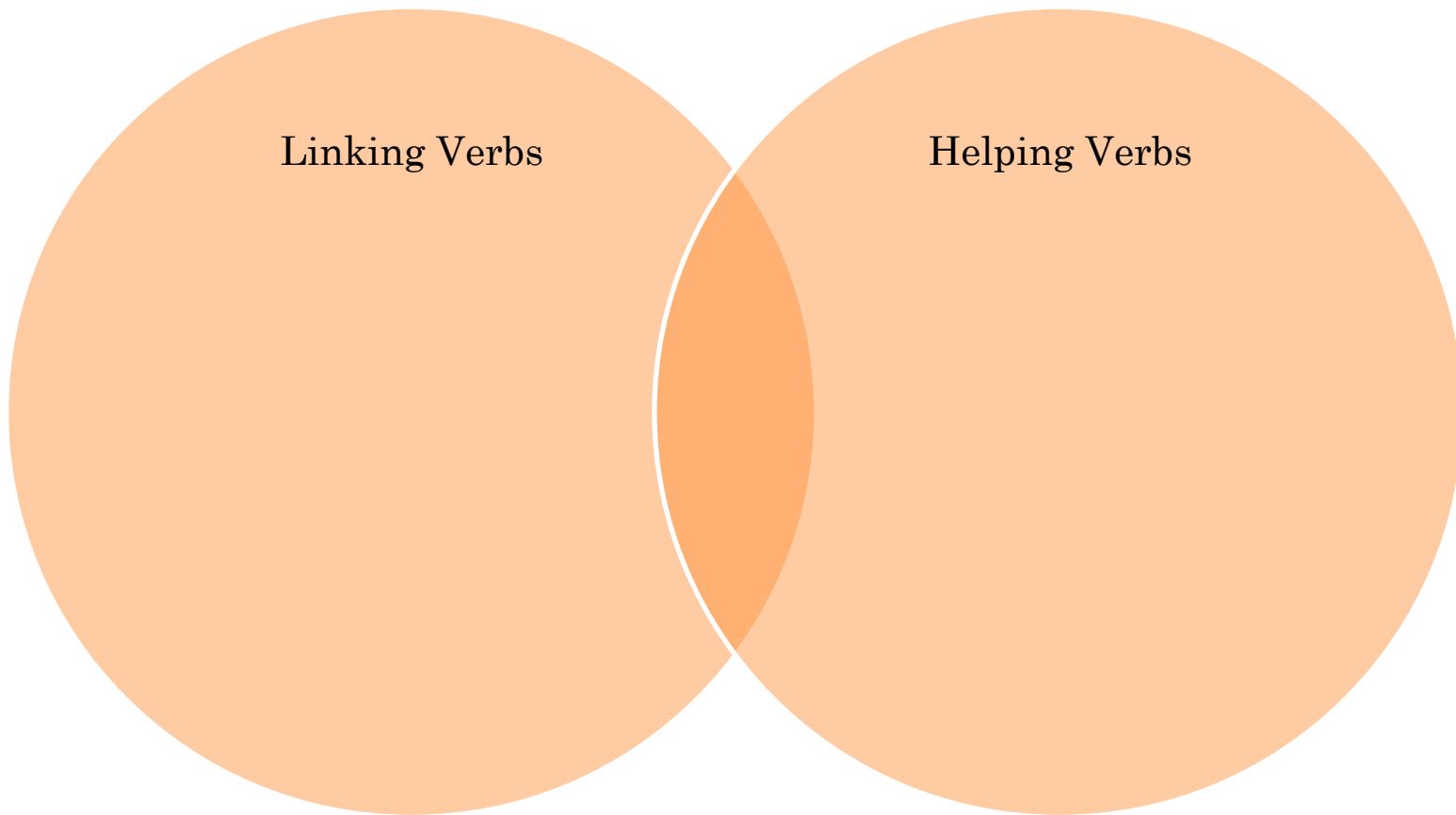
## HELPING VERBS

- There are **23** helping verbs:

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



# LINKING VERBS AND HELPING VERBS



## VERB PHRASES

- A verb phrase is the combination of one or more helping verbs with a main verb (action or linking verb).
  - Example:
    - The boy was walking through the mall.
      - helping verb = was
      - main verb = walking
      - verb phrase = was walking



## VERB PHRASES

- We will go to the movies after dinner.
  - helping verb =
  - main verb =
  - verb phrase =
  
- Melissa has been my best friend for five years.
  - helping verb =
  - main verb =
  - verb phrase =

