



Helping Verbs

Helping verbs are also known as auxiliary verbs. Helping verbs do not have any meaning by themselves in a sentence. Helping verbs need to be combined with a main verb or adjective to create meaning.

Example: The dog *is* barking.

Common Helping Verbs

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

PRACTICE

Choose five helping verbs, and use one of them in each sentence.

Example: Kay must finish her homework before she watches television.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Underline the helping verbs used in the paragraph. Then, write the helping verbs on the lines.

Yesterday, my dog, Dagney, was acting strangely. She had been gathering old towels and blankets and dragging them to a corner. Dagney then made a bed out of the towels and blankets. Finally, Dagney laid down in the pile of blankets. When I checked on Dagney later, you wouldn't believe what I saw. Dagney had had three puppies! Dagney was a mom!

_____, _____, _____, _____

_____, _____, _____

WRITE ON!

Have you ever had a pet do something unusual or strange? Was there a reason for the pet's odd behavior? On a separate sheet of paper, tell about the event. Use helping verbs in the paragraph, and underline them.



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Example: Adam *can* eat six hot dogs in one sitting.

PRACTICE

Underline the helping verbs used in the paragraph.

Mr. Mitchell is always running behind schedule. He says that it is because he has too many things to do. One day, he said that he might be late because his cat was stuck in a tree, and he could not wake his dog up! His wife, Mrs. Mitchell, has even tried setting the clocks ahead by ten minutes. She did this in hopes that it would help her husband get to his appointments on time. It worked for a while, until the power went out, and Mr. Mitchell had to reset all of the clocks!

What else could Mr. Mitchell do to be on time for his appointments? Write your suggestions below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Use the following helping verbs in sentences.

am do have may should were

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WRITE ON!

Have you ever been late? What happened? Why were you late? Write about the day on a separate sheet of paper. Use helping verbs in your sentences, and underline them.