

## Simply Put

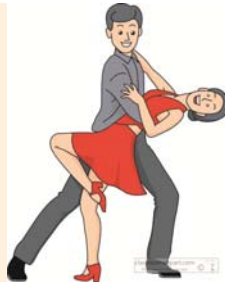
According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a **predicate** is “the part of a sentence or clause that expresses what is said of the subject and that usually consists of a verb with or without objects, complements, or adverbial.”

But, what’s a **verb**?

A **verb** is a word or set of words that shows action, feeling or state of being.

There are different kinds of verbs: **action** verbs, **linking** verbs (also called state of being verbs), and **helping** verbs. It is important, when finding the verb, to include all the helping verbs (sometimes called auxiliary verbs), too.

You are already familiar with **action** verbs such as *swim*, *dance*, *paint*, *think*, and many others.



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Here are some common **linking** or **state of being** verbs.

be (and it’s different forms)  
appear  
being  
become

feel  
look  
seem  
smell

sound  
taste

Here is a list of **helping** verbs:

am  
is  
are  
was  
were  
be  
being  
been  
have

has  
had  
shall  
will  
do  
does  
did  
can  
could

should  
would  
ought  
may  
might  
must

**Practice.** Underline the Predicate in the following sentences with a double line. Remember to include helping verbs. Helping verbs might not be placed near the main verb, especially in questions.

1. Haley and Sam enrolled in the same class.
2. I was going to take the same class, but I decided not to.
3. Did you take the garbage out?
4. She has never been to Mexico.
5. I am going there next week.
6. You really should finish your homework lesson.
7. Does that bus stop at the Italian restaurant?
8. He looked very handsome in his tuxedo last night.
9. Marta is always complaining about something.
10. That spaghetti tastes too spicy!



Answers.

1. Haley and Sam enrolled in the same class.
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Sites to help you with verbs:

<http://www.grammar-monster.com>

Purdue's Owl Writing Lab <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/>

Dictionary definitions: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>