

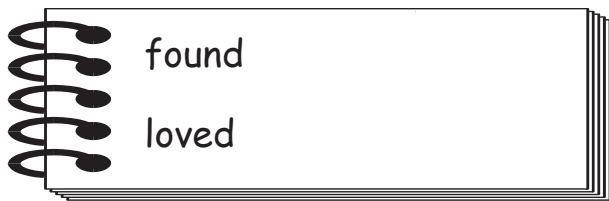
Verbs 1: Recognizing verbs

See the handout on **Verbs** if you need help to complete these exercises.

Words for 'doing' and 'being'

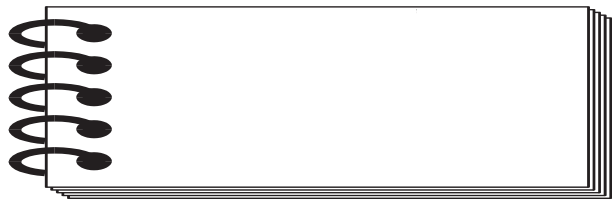
Read the sentences below in which the verbs are underlined. See how many new sentences you can make by changing each verb to a different one. Write at least four verbs on the notepad for each sentence.

1. The old lady stroked her cat.



A spiral-bound notepad with two lines of writing. The first line contains the word "found" and the second line contains the word "loved".

2. Jamila bought her bicycle yesterday.



An empty spiral-bound notepad with two blank lines for writing.

3. Bill cooked his dinner.



An empty spiral-bound notepad with two blank lines for writing.

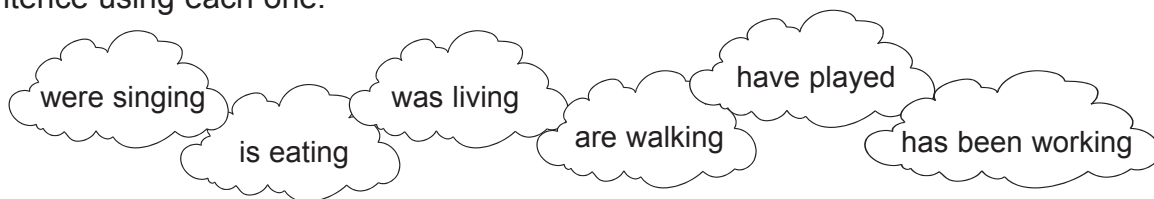
4. Mr Gates borrowed the camera.



An empty spiral-bound notepad with two blank lines for writing.

Verb chains with helping verbs

Several verbs can be used together in a sentence. Look at the verb chains in the clouds. Write a sentence using each one.



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

These verb chains use short helping verbs, called **auxiliary verbs**.

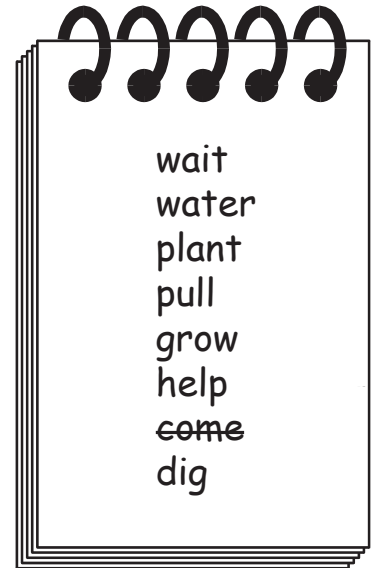
Can you pick them out?

Verbs 2: Verb forms

See the handouts on **Verbs** and **Tense** if you need help to complete these exercises.

Basic form

The notepad shows the basic form (or **infinitive**) of some verbs. Read the passage below and complete it using these infinitives.



I want you all to come outside and _____ me in the garden this afternoon. We need to _____ over the soil and _____ out the weeds. Then we will be able to _____ the sunflower seeds. After that you will have to _____ them and to _____ patiently for them to _____.

Which person?

Verbs change depending on the person who is talking, who they are talking to, and who they are talking about. Read the conversation between Anna and Peter in the speech bubbles. Now underline the verbs in them.

Anna, I am going to go and see Mrs Jones.

You go if you like, Peter. I'm busy.

We haven't seen her since we came back from our holiday.

I know she loves visitors and we ought to see her. Can we go tomorrow?

Rewrite the conversation as reported speech. See what difference the change in the viewpoint makes to the verbs.

Peter told Anna that he was going to see Mrs Jones.

Verbs 3: Using verbs

See the handout on **Verbs** if you need help to complete these exercises.

Powerful prose

Your writing will be more powerful if you use precise verbs rather than general ones. Read the two passages below and circle the verbs in each one. Compare the effect of the verbs on the writing.

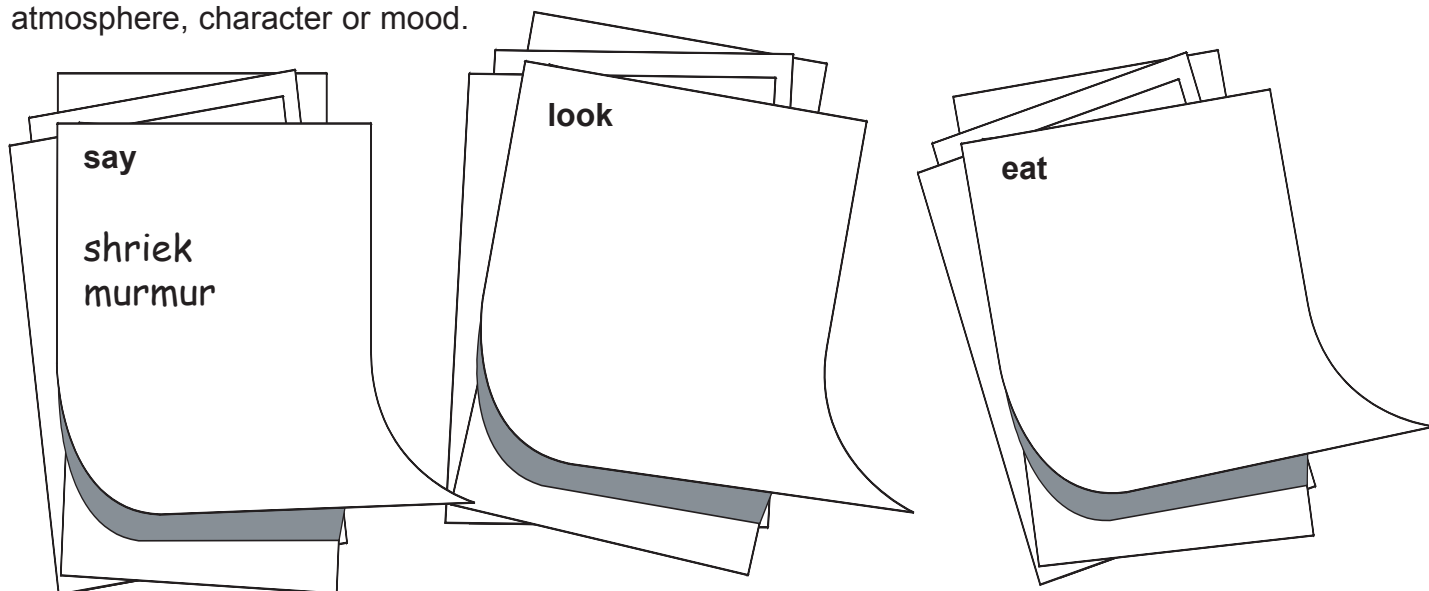
The man went out of the house. He walked across the garden and went through the gate. He ran down the street and went into the station.

The man crept out of the house. He tiptoed across the garden and squeezed through the gate. He scuttled down the street and hurtled into the station.

Think of some more interesting verbs you could use instead of 'went' or 'go'. You could use your thesaurus to help you.

shuffled,

The sheets below show some other general verbs. Find more powerful verbs, expressing atmosphere, character or mood.



Now make up your own sentences using the verbs on one sheet.

You can write a passage using all the verbs, or write separate sentences with one or more verbs in each.

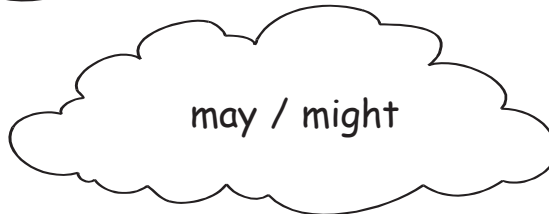
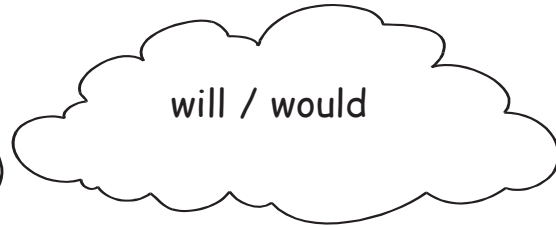
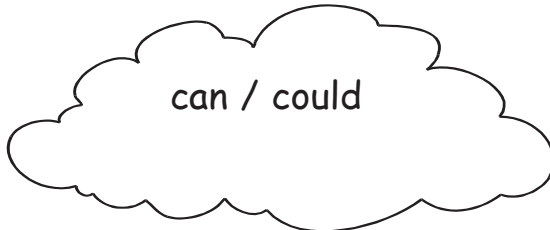
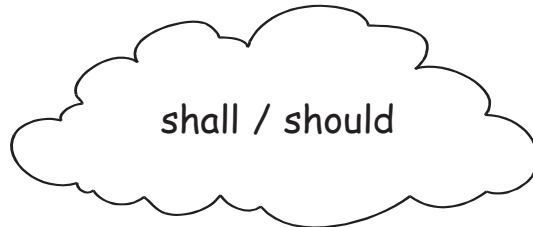
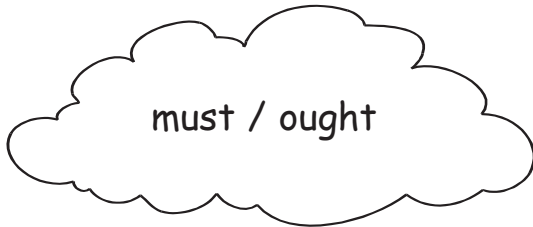
Verbs 4: Using verbs

Persuasive writing

Some auxiliary (helping) verbs express ideas such as possibility, willingness and prediction. They are particularly used in argument and persuasion.

For example: We might go to a film.
 I can help you.
 The train will be here soon.

These auxiliary verbs are shown in the clouds. Read the passage below and highlight the auxiliary verbs in it.



‘Would you go to the shop to buy me some sweets?’ my brother asked.
‘I would go, but I must do my homework first,’ I replied.
‘You can go to the shop just now and finish your homework later,’ he argued.
‘If I go now then I might forget to finish it, so I shall go after I have done it,’ I insisted.
‘All right, then,’ he replied. ‘Could you bring me some orange juice as well?’
‘I might, but only if you can afford some for me too.’