

Lesson 18: Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

LEARN

- A verb can be more than one word. In this kind of verb, the most important word is the **main verb**. The **helping verb** usually works with the main verb to tell *when* the action happened. The helping verb always comes before the main verb.
The moviemakers **are arriving** today.
They **will shoot** scenes for a movie in our town.

The main verb and the helping verb form a **verb phrase**. In the verb phrases above, the main verbs are *arriving* and *shoot*. The helping verbs are *are* and *will*.

- Here are some common helping verbs.

| | | |
|-----|------|------|
| am | was | has |
| is | were | have |
| are | will | had |

- The verbs *can*, *may*, *must*, and *should* are called **modals**. These verbs are also helping verbs.

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| can dance | may sing | must act | should direct |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|

- **Conditional verbs** use *if* and helping verbs to express unlikely situations in conditional sentences. *Can*, *may*, *must*, *should*, and *will* are important in forming conditional sentences.

If I watch closely, I **can learn** to make a movie.



PRACTICE

A Read each sentence, and look at the verbs in **boldface**. Write the helping verb and the main verb on the lines.

1. The movie company **has hired** a famous director.
2. The director **is making** an adventure film.
3. A chase **will occur** in the movie.
4. Several stunt performers **are preparing** for the scene.

| Helping Verb | Main Verb |
|--------------|------------------|
| <u>has</u> | <u>hired</u> |
| <u>is</u> | <u>making</u> |
| <u>will</u> | <u>occur</u> |
| <u>are</u> | <u>preparing</u> |

5. If the movie set **is** ready, the director **may film** the scene today.
6. The movie stars **should greet** their fans.
7. People in the crowd **were cheering** for them.
8. I **am standing** near the cameras.
9. The director **has planned** every detail.
10. He **had started** work on the movie months ago.

| Helping Verb | Main Verb |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <u>is, may</u> | <u>film</u> |
| <u>should</u> | <u>greet</u> |
| <u>were</u> | <u>cheering</u> |
| <u>am</u> | <u>standing</u> |
| <u>has</u> | <u>planned</u> |
| <u>had</u> | <u>started</u> |

B Underline the verbs in each sentence. If the verb is more than one word, be sure to underline both the main verb and the helping verb. Then write the verbs on the line.

1. If the scene is too long, the writers can make some last-minute changes.
2. The director had asked for the changes.
3. If there is a dangerous stunt, the crew tests the equipment first.
4. A makeup artist is applying makeup to the stars.
5. Electricians must check the cables before the scene is filmed.
6. Some stunt performers have signaled to the director.
7. An assistant director has requested quiet on the set.
8. The director shouts, "Action!"
9. The cameras are filming the scene.
10. The star jumps into a speedboat.
11. She has practiced this move many times.
12. An exciting chase scene begins.

is, can make

had asked

is, tests

is applying

must check, is

have signaled

has requested


shouts

are filming

jumps

has practiced

begins

Remember 
A **helping verb** works with the main verb to tell *when* an action happened.

C Write a helping verb and main verb to complete each sentence in this email. Choose verbs from the box, or use verbs of your own. **Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.**

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| must walk | was explaining | has promised | are filming |
| have watched | will appear | has scheduled | will begin |

Casey,

Something amazing has just happened! As a result,

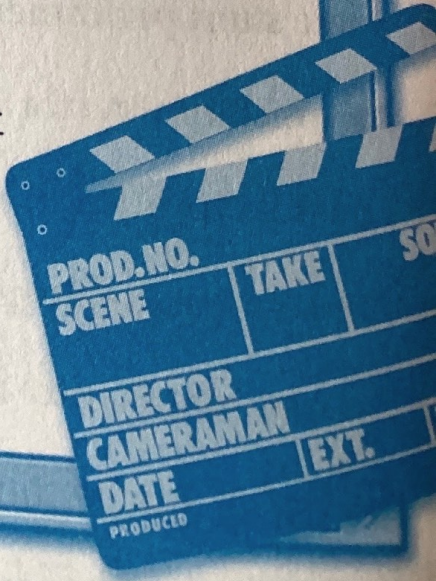
I will appear (1) in a movie.

As I was explaining (2) to you yesterday, some moviemakers are filming (3) some scenes here in Fairport. The project is an action-adventure movie. Mom and

I have watched (4) the filmmakers three times this week.

Earlier today we went down to the marina to watch again. The director saw us and asked if we wanted to be extras in a scene. In the scene we must walk (5) down a long dock. When we reach the middle of the dock, a big speedboat chase will begin (6).

The director has scheduled (7) us for 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. Mom has promised (8) her that we will be there early. Look for me in the near future at your favorite movie theater!





WRITE



Additional Resources at
SadlierConnect.com

D

Write a sentence to answer each question. Include both a helping verb and a main verb in each of your sentences. The first one is done for you.

Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.

1. How many movies have you watched this month? _____
I have watched three movies this month.
2. What movie have you enjoyed recently? _____
I have enjoyed [title of movie] recently.
3. What movie was playing last week in your community? _____
[Title of movie] was playing last week.
4. What actors were starring in the movie? _____
[Actors' names] were starring in the movie.
5. What movie is showing this week? _____
[Title of movie] is showing this week.
6. Where is the movie playing? _____
The movie is playing at the [name of theater].
7. At about what time will this movie start? _____
The movie will start at [time of day].
8. Who may join you? _____
My [friend(s), relative(s), or individual name(s)] may join me.
9. Which actor has created the funniest characters? _____
[Name of actor] has created the funniest characters.

Proofreading Checklist

- Did you answer each question with a complete sentence?
- Did you use a helping verb and a main verb in each sentence?