

Helping Verbs

What are you doing right now? Well, duh? *You are reading this sheet!* Now find the verb in the preceding sentence. Do you see that the verb has two words in it? (*are reading*) You have just discovered another fact about verbs – they can be made up of two or more words.

A little help please – helping verbs are assistants, they help the main verb express an action or a condition.

Examples:

1. Jarod **is taking** photographs of the monkeys. (The *main verb* is *taking* and the *helping verb* is *is*.)
2. They **are watching** him curiously. (The *main verb* is *watching* and the *helping verb* is *are*.)

Fun Fact – When you see an –ing verb in the sentence, it has to have a helping verb.

Example : Pat *smiling* at the joke. (not a complete verb)
Pat *is smiling* at the joke. (a complete verb)

How many helping verbs can there be? A sentence can contain up to 3 helping verb with the main verb.

A dog *was chasing* the cat. (one helping verb)

A dog *has been chasing* the cat. (two helping verbs)

A dog *must have been chasing* the cat. (three helping verbs)

Hint – Use your liking verb song list to help you find helping verbs.

Now it is your turn to practice.

Use verbs to fill in the blanks. Pick at least one helping verb and one main verb from the Word Bank for each answer. *Hint:* One of the helping verbs is used more than once.

Word Bank

Helping verbs

was
must
had
do
have

Main Verbs

thought
sleeping
get
swinging
sprung
attached

Once upon a time, Tiger _____ in a tree. Monkey
_____ through the forest. He _____
_____ the tiger tail was a vine. Before Monkey knew it,
that vine _____ to life! It _____ to one
mad tiger.

Moral: If you swing in the forest, _____ not _____ a tiger
by the tail!