

17.3 Helping Verbs • Practice 1

Recognizing Helping Verbs Helping verbs are verbs that can be added to another verb to make a single verb phrase. Any of the many forms of *be* as well as some other common verbs can be used as helping verbs.

HELPING VERBS OTHER THAN THE FORMS OF BE			
do	have	shall	can
does	has	should	could
did	had	will	may
		would	might
			must

VERB PHRASES	
Helping Verbs	Key Verbs
am	talking
can	write
will be	studying
should have been	considered

Finding Helping Verbs in Sentences Other words may sometimes separate helping verbs from key verbs.

VERB PHRASES SEPARATED
Mom <i>will</i> certainly not <i>allow</i> anyone in the kitchen at that time.
<i>Has</i> anyone <i>seen</i> my keys to the apartment?

Exercise 1 Adding Helping Verbs to Sentences. Fill in each blank with an appropriate helping verb.

EXAMPLE: You should have come with us.

- I _____ studying for two hours.
- Who _____ running for student council?
- We _____ never _____ done it without your help.
- Dinner _____ not be ready for a while.
- _____ the show _____ starting soon?
- I _____ going to camp this summer.
- We _____ prepared more food.
- The first guests _____ arriving at any moment.
- The runner _____ not even seem winded.
- The diver _____ positioned herself more carefully.

Exercise 2 Identifying Helping Verbs. Underline each helping verb in the sentences below. Circle the key verb in each verb phrase.

EXAMPLE: Will Tasha be arriving today?

- Phil should never have repeated that remark.
- Ms. Wilkins does not always announce tests.
- Will your sister be starting college this fall?
- How could I have been so mistaken?
- Did you make your train on time?
- What else do you need?
- They must have left late.
- Bill may not call tonight.
- Why is Tracy crying?
- Where have you put it?