

Name _____ Date _____

5 VERB PHRASES

A verb phrase consists of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.

One or more helping verbs may precede the main verb in a verb phrase. For example, in the sentence, "I will be arriving at school on time," *will* and *be* are helping verbs, and *arriving* is the main verb. Common helping verbs are shown in the table below.

be	do	have	shall	can
is	does	has	should	could
was	did	had	will	may
were			would	might
(all forms of be)				must

Practice A Recognizing Verb Phrases

Read each sentence. Then, write the verb phrase on the line provided.

Example: I will be taking science first period.

Answer: will be taking

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| 1. You should have finished the paper before watching TV. _____ | 6. I have seen this movie four times. _____ |
| 2. My family is leaving next week. _____ | 7. Nicole will be working tomorrow. _____ |
| 3. Truong is painting his house. _____ | 8. Chad has been posting updates from his trip. _____ |
| 4. My dog was not expecting two shots today. _____ | 9. Cathy is raising five kids. _____ |
| 5. That car does use a lot of gas. _____ | 10. He is planning a trip to Japan. _____ |

Practice B Identifying Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

Read each sentence. Then, underline the helping verbs and circle the main verbs.

Example: She is using her mom's computer.

Answer: She is (using) her mom's computer.

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| 1. They are adopting a child next month. | 6. Grandma might learn karate. |
| 2. Mr. Rose should be making dinner by now. | 7. I have seen snow in Telluride in July. |
| 3. Temperatures are climbing. | 8. Antal will play guitar in a concert tonight. |
| 4. You do want dessert, right? | 9. Dad was praising the dog. |
| 5. I might go to community college for my first year. | 10. I am getting a job next semester. |

Writing and Speaking Application

Write three sentences that use verb phrases, and underline the helping verbs. Then, read your sentences to a partner. Your partner should identify the main verbs. Switch roles with your partner and repeat the exercise.