

## Unit 3: THE VERB

The verb of a sentence can be:

one word	He	<b>works</b> in a hospital.
two words	He	<b>is working</b> in the hospital.
three words	He	<b>has been working</b> in the hospital.
or even four words	He	<b>must have been working</b> in the hospital.

In the sentences above, **work** (**works** and **working**) is an example of a **LEXICAL VERB**. Lexical verbs give basic information. Every simple sentence has one lexical verb in it.

In the sentences above, the words between **He** and **work** are examples of **AUXILIARY VERBS**. There are not many auxiliary verbs. They are:

**do**    **have**            **be**  
**can**    **could**            **will would shall should may might must**

They are very important because we can use them together with lexical verbs. For example:

<b>AUXILIARY</b>		<b>LEXICAL</b>		<b>AUXILIARY</b>
Where <b>shall</b>	I	<b>meet</b>	you?	
<b>Is</b>	John	<b>getting</b>	a flu shot?	No, he <b>is</b> not.
He <b>does</b>	not	<b>like</b>	shots,	<b>does</b> he?
<b>Have</b>	they	<b>finished?</b>		Yes, they <b>have</b> .

We use auxiliary verbs to:

- make a negative sentence (Unit 5)
- make a question (Unit 9)
- give a short answer (Unit 11)
- make a tag question (Unit 12)
- make passive sentences (Unit 43)
- show what we feel about what we are saying (Unit 27)
- and in continuous and perfect verb formations (Unit 15)

To learn about **do**, **have**, **be** as auxiliaries, look at Unit 17.

The other auxiliaries are called **MODAL VERBS**. You can learn about them in Unit 27.