

VERB PHRASE (Study Notes)

- Sometimes, the **main verb** needs help forming different moods or tenses, or it needs to provide additional information about when the action was completed. When this happens, writers also use an **auxiliary verb**, or “helping verb.” Auxiliary verbs include forms of *be*, *have*, and *do*.
- A verb phrase is a syntactic unit consisting of an auxiliary (helping) verb preceding the main verb.
- A **verb** phrase is the part of a sentence that contains a **main verb** and all of its “helpers,” or auxiliary verbs.
- Helping verbs may appear as: is, are, be, such as, was, were, been, being, have, had, has, do, did, does, can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, must, might, etc

Types of Verb Phrase

There are two types of verb phrase:

1. Finite Verb Phrase

If a sentence has just one verb phrase, it is a finite verb phrase. The head verb is finite and either comes in present or past form. For instance:

I go to college in the morning.

1. Non-finite Verb Phrase

In this type of verb phrase, the head verb is participle, gerund, or infinitive. For instance:

She is hearing someone crying for help.

Uses of Verb Phrases

- *In spite of being sick, he went to school.*

Here “went” is the verb phrase.

- *We are going with her to church.*

Here “are going” is the verb phrase.

- *Helen may need our support to raise the hospital bill.*

Here the verb phrase is “may need”.

- *Her hobby is traveling overseas.*

“is traveling” is the verb phrase, and “overseas” is the complement of the subject.

- *He is concerned about learning new languages.*

Here “is concerned” is the verb phrase acts as a compliment of the objective phrase “about learning new languages.”

The use of verb phrases in any content makes it informative and eloquent and is very crucial to make one’s writing easily understood by the readers.