



**CLASS IX & X**  
**ENGLISH GRAMMAR**  
**PART I**  
**LESSON 13**  
**VERBS**

**NOTES**

A **Verb** is a word that tells us something about some person/persons or thing/things. Verbs may tell us about an action, a state of being or existence or possession. **Verbs** are said to be the most important words of a sentence.

**Important types of Verbs:**

**1. Verbs are divided into two main Classes: Principal Verbs and Auxiliary Verbs.**

**(a) Principal Verb:** When a Verb is used independently; it is called a **Principal** or **Main Verb**.

**(b) Auxiliary Verb:** When a verb is used to help a Principal Verb to indicate **Tenses, Moods and Voices** or indicate a **Sense of questioning or Negation**, it is called an **Auxiliary Verb**.

**Examples:**

- a. The boy **reads** a poem every day.
- b. He **has done** the work.
- c. They **were not singing**.

In the above sentences, the words given in bold are Verbs. The second and the third sentences have two verbs each. The words 'done' and 'singing' are **Principal Verbs** and the words 'has' and 'were' are **Auxiliary Verbs**. The **Auxiliary Verbs** help the **Principal Verbs** to indicate **Tense, Mood and Voice**. **Senses of questioning or Negation** are also produced with the help of **Auxiliary Verbs**.

**The following are the Primary Auxiliary Verbs:**

Be (is, am, are, was, were), Do (does, did), Have (has, had), Can (could), Shall (should), Will (would), May (might)

**Note: Some Primary Auxiliary Verbs can be used as Main or Principal Verbs. These Auxiliary Verbs are –is, am, are, was, were, do, does, did, have, has, had etc.**

**Examples:**

- a. The cow **is** a domestic animal.
- b. I **do** my work sincerely.



**2. Finite Verbs and Non-Finite Verbs:** Main or Principal Verbs are of two kinds. They are:

**(a) Finite Verbs:** The Verbs which change their forms according to the Person and Number of their Subjects and also according to the Tense of the Verbs are called Finite Verbs.

**Examples:**

- i. I go.
- ii. He goes.
- iii. We went.

**(b) Non-Finite Verbs:** The Verbs which do not change their forms according to the Person and Number of the Subjects and which do not have Tense forms also are called Non-Finite Verbs.

They are of two kinds:

**I. Verbal Nouns, e.g.**

- i. **Infinitive:** He wants **to sleep**.
- ii. **Gerund:** **Walking** is a good exercise.

**II. Verbal Adjectives, e.g.**

- i. **Present Participle:** It was an **interesting** story.
- ii. **Past Participle:** I saw the **broken** chair.

**3. Transitive and Intransitive Verbs:** According to whether a Verb requires an object or not, Verbs can be Transitive or Intransitive.

**a. Transitive Verb:** A Verb that requires an object to complete its meaning is called a **Transitive Verb**. These Transitive Verbs are also known as **Causative Verbs**. When a



Transitive Verb has two objects, one is called the **Direct Object** and the other is called the **Indirect Object**. The answer to the question ‘**what**’ is the Direct Object. And the answer to the question ‘**to whom**’ is the Indirect Object.

**Example:** I gave a book to him (Here, *a book* is the direct object and *him* is the indirect object.)

**b. Intransitive Verb:** A Verb which does not require an object to complete its meaning is called an **Intransitive Verb**.

**Example:** The baby was sleeping soundly.

**Note: More about the Transitive and the Intransitive Verbs:**

**i. Some Verbs can be used both Transitivity and Intransitively.**

**Examples:**

**a.** The boys **fly** kites. (Transitive)

**b.** The birds **fly**. (Intransitive)

**Note:** A few verbs of this class have different forms for the two classes.

Examples:

**Used Transitivity**

Leaves fall in autumn.

**Used Intransitively**

He fells the trees.

**ii.** Some Intransitive Verbs can be used Transitivity when it is grouped or used with a preposition. These are known as **Prepositional Verbs**.

**Example:** The whole class **laughed at** the poor boy.

**iii.** An Intransitive Verb sometimes takes an object akin or similar in meaning of the Verb. Such an object is known as **Cognate Object**.

**Example:** She **sang** a song.

**iv.** There are also some more Transitive Verbs which are used Intransitively.

**Example:** Sugar **sells** cheap.



**4. Verbs of Incomplete Predication:** There are some Verbs which require some other word or words to make the senses of the sentences complete. These Verbs are called **Verbs of Incomplete Predication** and the word or words added are called **Complements**.

**Examples:**

- a. They **made** him king.
- b. He **fell** ill.

**5. Linking Verbs:** **Linking Verbs** are Verbs that serve as a connection between a subject and further information about the subject which we call the **Subjective Complement**. Linking Verbs do not describe any direct action taken or controlled by the subject. Linking Verbs are again grouped into:

**a. Stative Linking Verbs:** Verbs that denote a certain state of rest or steady condition of the subjects. They are not generally used in the Present Progressive Tense  
**E.g.,** I hear a nose.

**b. Dynamic Linking Verbs:** Verbs which denote a process of change in the person or thing indicated by in the subject. They can be used in Progressive form.  
**E.g.,** I am growing old.

**6. Strong and Weak Verbs:** Verbs are again divided into two classes according to the way in which they form their Past and Past Participle forms from their forms in the Present Tense.

**a. Strong Verbs:** Verbs that form their Past and Past Participles forms by changing the inside vowels of the forms in Present Tense are called Strong Verbs. Strong Verbs are also called **Irregular Verbs**.

**Examples:**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
do	did	done
take	took	taken



**b. Weak Verbs:** If Verbs form their Past and Past Participles forms by adding *ed, d or t*, they are known as **Weak Verbs**. Weak Verbs are also called **Regular Verbs**.

**Examples:**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
leap	leaped	leaped
sleep	slept	slept

**7. Conjugation of Verbs:** The process of showing the various forms of Verbs particularly the chief forms, namely the **Present Tense (base) form, the Past Tense form and the Past Participle form** derived from the base form to denote the Tense, Mood, Voice, Number etc. of the Verbs is known as **Conjugation**.

Below is given the Conjugation of some Verbs:

<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
abide	abode	abode
catch	caught	caught
draw	drew	drawn
put	put	put