**SLAC VERB AID**

**VERBS**

A verb expresses action or being. The main word in the predicate of a sentence is a verb.

Maya *writes* a wonderful letter.
The verb *writes* expresses action.

Your letters *are* full of news.
The verb *are* expresses being.

**ACTION VERBS**

An *action verb* is a word that tells what the subject does, did, or will do.

Letters usually *contain* facts about the writer.
In the past, people *wrote* letters frequently.
I *will mail* your letter this afternoon.

**LINKING VERBS**

A *linking verb* connects the subject to a noun or an adjective that names or describes it. The most common linking verbs are forms of *be*, including *am, is, are, was, and were*.

(Washington Irving) *was* a writer.
(subject) (noun)

His stories *are* still popular
(subject) (adjective)

Some other common linking verbs are *appear, become, feel, grow, look, seem, and taste*.

The valley *appears* misty.
The Hudson River *looks* beautiful.
The story *seems* familiar.

**MAIN VERBS**

A simple predicate may be made up of two or more verbs. The *main verb* is the most important verb in the predicate.

I *am writing* a report about insects.
Insects have *lived* on the earth for more than 400 million years.
You *will enjoy* this book about insects.
Did you *read* the first chapter yet?

**HELPING VERBS**

A *helping verb* can work with the main verb to tell about an action. These words are often used as helping verbs: *am, is, has, do, could, was, were, have, does, would, are, will, had, did, and should*.
I *am* watching that anthill.
Sometimes other words appear between the helping verb and the main verb.  
   You will soon see the ants.  
   I have never seen the queen.

TENSE

The tense of a verb shows when the action happens.  
There are three basic verb tenses.

   I am taking a photo of a grasshopper.  
   I develop my pictures in my darkroom.  
   I watched the grasshopper for an hour.  
   I will show you the photographs tomorrow.

PRESENT TENSE

A verb in the present tense shows action that happens over and over.  
Use these rules for spelling singular present-tense verbs when the subject is a singular noun or he, she, or it:

   Add –s to most verbs.  
   walk------walks  
   sit------sits

   Add –es to verbs ending in s, ch, sh, x, or z.  
   catch------catches  
   wish------wishes

   If the verb ends in a consonant plus y, change the y to i and add –es.  
   dry------dries  
   fly------flies

PAST TENSE

A verb in the past tense shows action that happened in the past.  
Use these rules for spelling past-tense verbs:  Add-ed to most verbs. If a verb ends in e add –d.  use------used

   move------moved.

   If a verb ends with a consonant plus y, change the y to i and add –ed.
   dip------dipped

   If a verb ends with consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final consonant and add –ed.
   shop------shopped

IRREGULAR VERBS

An irregular verb is a verb that does not end with –ed in the past tense. This chart shows some irregular verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Past with Helping Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>be</td>
<td>am, is, are</td>
<td>was, were</td>
<td>(has, have, had) been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>begin</td>
<td>begin(s)</td>
<td>began</td>
<td>(has, have, had) begun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bring</td>
<td>bring(s)</td>
<td>brought</td>
<td>(has, have, had) brought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>come(s)</td>
<td>came</td>
<td>(has, have, had) come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>do(es)</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>(has, have, had) done</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUTURE TENSE

A verb in the future tense shows action that will happen in the future. To form the future tense of a verb, use the helping verb will with the main verb.

   The audience will have a surprise in store.  
   The musicians will play bells.