

Name: _____

Helping Verbs

Sometimes verbs are composed of more than one word. These extra words are called **helping** verbs. A **main verb** and a **helping verb** together make up a **verb phrase**.

Common helping verbs include forms of **be, can, do, has, will, and shall. May and might** can also be helping verbs.

example:

Caitlin has drawn a beautiful flower.
The helping verb is *has*. The main verb is *drawn*.

Sometimes other words come in between the helping verb and the main verb. These are not part of the verb phrase.

example:

Louis did not take out the trash last night.
The helping verb is *did* and the main verb is *take*. The word *not* is an adverb.

Underline the main verb in each sentence and circle the helping verb.

1. Have you ever seen a dolphin?
2. If you visit an aquarium, you may watch trained dolphins perform.
3. Dolphins are also kept in zoo exhibits.
4. You might see a dolphin if you sail across the ocean.
5. You will probably never find a dolphin in a fresh water lake.
6. Mandy and Noah are looking forward to a camping trip with their family.
7. They are taking a big tent that has room for four people.
8. That will be enough room for Mandy, Noah, and their parents.
9. Will there be enough room for their St. Bernard, Shaggy?
10. Shaggy has never gone on vacation before.



ANSWER KEY

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