

LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 2

SUBJECT: English Language

TOPIC: Parts of Speech: Verb; meaning and Types of Verbs

CLASS: JS1

WEEK: 2

DEFINITION OF VERBS

Verbs are words that tell us what people or things do. Verbs come from the Latin, verbum, a word. It is the most important word in a sentence.

FUNCTIONS OF VERBS

A verb may tell us:

1. *What a person or thing does*

- The clock strikes.
- As Anthony laughs.

2. *What is done to a person or thing.*

- The window is broken.
- Harry is scolded.

3. *What a person or thing is*

- The cat is dead.
- I feel sorry.
- Glass is brittle

A verb often consists of more than one word as,

1. The girls were singing.
2. I have learnt my lesson
3. The watch has been found.

All the underlined words above are verbs.

TYPES OF VERBS

1. Transitive and intransitive verbs

Transitive verb is a verb that allows action to pass from the subject to the object.

Examples:

The man

Subject

(Performer of the action)

shut

transitive verb

the door.

object (receiver of the action)

A transitive verb has a subject and an object.

- Intransitive verb is a verb that has a subject but has no object to act on.

Example:

The baby slept.
 Subject intransitive verb

2. Main verbs and auxiliary verbs

Main verbs are action verbs. E.g: eat, dance sit, sleep, climb, play, etc.

- I eat
- You eat
- She/he/it eats
- They eat

Auxiliary verbs are helping verbs. Sometimes, they cannot stand on their own. They help to form the tenses of verbs. There are two types; primary auxiliary and modal auxiliary verbs.

Primary auxiliary verbs are: am, is, are was, were, has, have, be and do.

- I am eating.
- She is dancing.
- They are going.
- He was dancing.
- They were dancing.
- She has done it.
- I have a car.
- I do a lot of knitting.

MODAL AUXILIARIES

These express ideas such as possibility, probability, ability, certainty, willingness, obligation, permission, necessity, request, compulsion etc.

Examples:

- I can carry the load (ability)
- We may see tomorrow (probability)
- I must do the assignment (certainty)
- They will come (possibility)
- You must do your assignment now (compulsion)
- You can go there. (Permission)

NOTE: Sometimes, an auxiliary verb can function as the main verb in a sentence.

E.g: The dress is very long. (is functions as the main verb in this sentence.)

I have a beautiful doll.

- A sentence can also have a main verb and an auxiliary verb.

E.g; Peter was dancing.

- A modal auxiliary verb cannot be used as a main verb, it is always used together with a main ver.

Examples: the man **can drive** a car.

You **must get** to school before 7:30am.

You **may borrow** my pen.

EVALUATION

Underline the action verbs and circle the state-of-being verbs in the following sentences.

1. The babies are crying.
2. The children play every afternoon.
3. Olawale was singing.
4. The child ran towards his mother.
5. The lady seem happy.