

Lesson 4

Parts of Speech - Verbs

Sometimes a *verb* can be more than one word. When a verb is more than one word, it is called a *verb phrase*. Verb phrases can be two, three, or four words. Verb phrases are made by using *auxiliary* or *helping verbs* with the *main verb*.

There are twenty-three (23) helping verbs that should be memorized since they are used so often. If you will memorize them, it will make knowing and understanding verbs much easier. They are usually grouped in the following six groups:

Group 1: is, am, are, was, were

Group 2: be, being, been

Group 3: has, have, had

Group 4: do, does, did

Group 5: shall, will, should, would

Group 6: may, might, must, can, could

Instructions: Pick out the *verb phrases* in these sentences.

1. You are going to Seattle.
2. You have been resting too much.
3. We must be early.
4. I will be finished shortly.

Note: These sentences all have what are called *auxiliary* or *helping verbs*. I will refer to them as *helping verbs*.