❶ Here's the Idea

> **A verb expresses an action, a condition, or a state of being.**
> The two main types of verbs are action verbs and linking verbs. Both kinds can be accompanied by auxiliary verbs.

Action Verbs

An **action verb** expresses an action. The action may be physical or mental.

My family and I drove 500 miles to Montana. (PHYSICAL)

We wanted good weather for our vacation. (MENTAL)

When an action verb can take a direct object (that is, a word naming a person or thing that receives the action), it is called a **transitive verb.** When an action verb cannot take an object, it is called an **intransitive verb.**

Mom locked Dad's wheelchair into place.
↑TRANSITIVE VERB   ↑OBJECT

Uncle Lou snored loudly in the back of the van.
↑INTRANSITIVE VERB (NO OBJECT)

Linking Verbs

A **linking verb** links a word in the predicate to the subject.

LINKED

We were happy to see the sign for Big Sky Country.

LINKED

The campsite appeared tiny beside the grand mountain.

There are two groups of linking verbs: forms of *be* and verbs that express conditions.

Some verbs can be either action or linking verbs.

Dad tasted the fresh water. It tasted wonderful.
      ACTION   LINKING

Uncle Lou smelled skunks. They smelled awful.
         ACTION   LINKING

If you can substitute a form of *be* for a verb, it is a linking verb.

Auxiliary Verbs and Verb Phrases

Auxiliary verbs, also called helping verbs, are combined with other verbs to form **verb phrases.** A verb phrase may be used to express a particular tense of a verb (that is, the time being referred to) or to indicate that an action is directed at the subject.

Small scraps of birch bark are crackling in the fire.
               AUXILIARY   MAIN

Our muscles will be sore from chopping wood.
      AUXILIARY   MAIN

At last all the wood has been chopped.
          AUXILIARY   MAIN

Auxiliary Verbs

be		have	do	can	should
am	were	has	does	could	may
is	being	had	did	will	might
are	been			would	must
was				shall	

Some of these verbs can also function as main verbs. For example, notice how *had* stands alone in the first sentence below and is a helping verb in the second sentence.

At the end of the evening, we had no more energy. (MAIN)