

## Finite and auxiliary verbs

**Verbs** are often called *doing* words because they show what is being done.

**Example:** They sent a rocket into space. Verbs are also called *being* words because they show that something exists. **Example:** My dog is happy that I am home.

- A **finite verb** must be linked to a subject and must show number (singular or plural) and tense (past, present or future). **Example:** The astronauts were ready for blast off!

- Finite verbs are not always single words. **Auxiliary verbs** are helping verbs.

**Examples:** *am, is, are, was, were, can, could, will be.* Auxiliary verbs can be used with a main verb to form a finite verb. The auxiliary verb usually helps to show the tense or to form a question.

**Examples:**

The auxiliary verbs *will be* help to put *travelling* in the future tense.

*travelling* is the main verb.

The rocket will be travelling into outer space.

The three verbs together make up the finite verb.

Would you like to be an astronaut?

The auxiliary verb *would* works with *like* to form a question.

- Underline all the finite verbs in the sentences below. Remember that a finite verb can be more than one word.

- Mark Shuttleworth went to space.
- I visited NASA, the space station in Texas.
- Food floats in space because there is no gravity.
- Who will be the first person to live on the moon?

- Use an auxiliary verb from the box to complete the sentences. Bracket the main verb that the auxiliary verb is helping.

has   will   would have   do

- Tomorrow we \_\_\_\_\_ go to the science library.
- Research into space travel \_\_\_\_\_ taken many years.
- How \_\_\_\_\_ people sleep in a spacecraft?
- I wonder what our great-grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ thought about space travel!



### Hint

Single verbs that end in **-ing** are never finite. They need an auxiliary verb to help them form the tense.

**Example:** He is hoping to study astronomy one day.



### Hint

Verbs that have **to** in front of them are not finite verbs. **Example:** I am going to complete my project tomorrow.

## Transitive and intransitive verbs

- The prefix *trans-* means *going across*, so a **transitive verb** carries the action across from the subject to the object.
- Transitive verbs are used *with* an object.
- **Intransitive verbs** are used *without* an object.

### Examples:

In this sentence, *sings* is a transitive verb because it has a direct object, *song*.

Emily sings a song.

In this sentence, *loudly* is an adverb, not an object, so *sings* is an intransitive verb.

Emily sings loudly.



### Refer to

Refer to page 14 to revise direct objects.



### New word

**applauded:** made a noise by clapping hands

1. Is the underlined verb transitive (T) or intransitive (I)? Write T or I in the boxes.

a) Lisa plays the drums.

b) The audience applauded loudly.

c) Tsepo held the violin bow in his hand.

d) Bheki shook like a leaf when he stood up to sing.

e) The learners grew more enthusiastic when they started singing popular songs.

2. Use each verb in a sentence. Put a cross in the box to say if the verb is transitive (T) or intransitive (I).

a) slept: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 

T	I
---	---

b) broke: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 

T	I
---	---

c) understood: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 

T	I
---	---

d) cry: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 

T	I
---	---

e) will buy: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 

T	I
---	---