

What is happening?

Verbs and Verb Groups

Our experiences are generally made up of different kinds of doings, happenings and states and typically take the form of verbs (and verb groups). Through verb groups, we can express different aspects of our experience:

- *what we do (action verbs)*
- *what we say (saying verbs)*
- *what we think, feel and perceive (sensing verbs)*
- *how we create links between bits of information (relating verbs)*
- *how we refer to things that simply 'exist' (existing verbs)*

The follow chart provides examples of verb and verb group types but is by no means exclusive.

Type	Examples
action verbs	blow, eat, come, get, do, give, work, drive, swim, shake, make, bike, play, buy,
saying verbs	ask, plead, beg, imply, reply, scream, shout, whisper, stammer, suggest, cry, continue
thinking verbs	know, reflect, comprehend, believe, imagine, forget, remember, realize, decide, understand, hypothesize, assume, recognize, infer
feeling (and wanting) verbs	like, hate, dislike, want, need, wish, fear, enjoy
perceiving verbs	see, taste, hear, smell, observe, notice, sense
relating verbs – being	am, is, are, was, were, mean, become, turn into, seem, appears, represent, remain, is called, equal, symbolize
relating verbs – having	have, has, had, possess, own, include, compromise, lack, encompass
existing verb BE	There was an old house on the hill. There is a hole in your shirt. There was nothing to do. There is a playground at that park. This form is typically introduced by <i>there</i> .

Another important part of the verb group are MODAL AUXILIARIES. Modals function to indicate a degree of certainty, possibility, probability, obligation surrounding an activity. The most common modals are:

might, must, would, could, should, may, can

These are sometimes called semi-modals but function in a similar manner as full modals: **need to, have to, ought to, had better.**