

Features of Verbs

English has three kinds of verbs:

1. full verbs (also called **main verbs** or **lexical verbs**)

- tell you "what happened" or "what the situation is";
- regular and/or irregular forms
- all of them have a verbal paradigm made up of four columns – i.e. the infinitive or base form, the simple past, the past participle and the -ing form
→ → → → open "Verb Form" on <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com> and check the paradigm of each verb;
- transitive and/or intransitive use;
- active and passive form (or voice)
→ → → → see the grammar chart on active and passive voices;
- **grammatical collocations** (e.g. *to aim at + -ing form*¹, *to be responsible for [sth]*, *to be responsible of [sb]*, *to bounce back*, *to call for*, *to deal with*, *to focus on*, *to protect against*, *to result in*², *to result from*³, and so on ...);
- **lexical collocations** (e.g. *to boost economic growth*, *cut taxes*, *to enforce a law*, and so on);

¹ The following alternative: *to aim to + basic form* is also possible.

² A synonym for *to cause*. Look at the following examples: "This *has resulted in* significant external and budgetary financial gaps"; "All this *has resulted in* increased consumer spending in this city".

³ A synonym for *to be caused by*. Look at the following examples: "Similarly, this package *has resulted from* a huge amount of effort by the Commission"; "Political fragility *has resulted from* this, leading to violent confrontations and acts of aggression which directly affect human rights and fundamental rights".

- **false friends** (e.g. *to advise*⁴, *to arrange*⁵, *to attend*⁶, *to expect*⁷, *to occur*⁸, *to pretend*⁹, *to process*¹⁰, *to realize*¹¹, *to recover*¹², and so on);
- **compound verbs**

2. auxiliaries

- **to be (was, been), to have (had, had), to do (did, done);**
- **are used to make complex verbal structures.**

3. modals (also called auxiliary modals)

- **can, could; may, might; will, would; shall, should; have to, must, need, ought to ... and so on**
→ → → → [see the grammar chart on modal verbs;](#)
- **add subjective extra meaning.**

⁴ **to advise** is translated as *suggerire, consigliare*; compare the spelling of the verb with that of the correspondent U-noun "advice".

⁵ **to arrange** is translated as *disporre, sistemare*.

⁶ **to attend** is translated as *frequentare, partecipare*.

⁷ **to expect** is translated as *aspettarsi*.

⁸ **to occur** is translated as *accadere, manifestarsi, verificarsi, venire in mente*.

⁹ **to pretend** is translated as *far finta*.

¹⁰ **to process** is translated as *elaborare*.

¹¹ **to realize**, also written **to realise**, is translated as *accorgersi, capire, accorgersi di, rendersi conto di*.

¹² **to recover** is translated as *guarire*.

TENSES		
PRESENT	Present Simple	.....> I do
	Present Continuous	.....> I am doing
	Present Perfect	.....> I have done
	Present Perfect Continuous	.....> I have been doing
PAST	Past Simple	.....> I did
	Past Continuous	.....> I was doing
	Past Perfect	.....> I had done
	Past Perfect Continuous	.....> I had been doing
FUTURE	Future Simple	.....> I will do
	Future Continuous	.....> I will be doing
	Future Perfect	.....> I will have done
	Future Perfect Continuous	.....> I will have been doing

Vocords

Chart to identify the various verbal tenses of English in their active voice