

Features of Verbs in English for EVM: forms, functions and usage

**** part 1 ****

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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
→ → → → verbal paradigms,
"Notes on Present Tenses in EVM",
unit 3, a.y. 2025/2026";
- transitive and/or intransitive use;
→ → → → see "Verbs in MedVet English, part 2",
unit 3, a.y. 2025/2026";
- active and passive form;
→ → → → "Verbs in MedVet, part 2"
plus Grammar Chart 1,
unit 3, a.y. 2025/2026,;
- **grammatical collocations** (e.g. *to aim at* + *-ing form* or *to* + *base form*, *to call for*, *to deal with*, *to die from/of*, *to die with*, *to focus on*, *to protect against*, *to result in*¹, *to result from*², *to suffer from*, and so on ...);
- **lexical collocations** (e.g. *to administer a drug*³, *to become* or *to get active*, *to become* or *to get ill*, *to become* or

¹ A synonym for *to cause*.

² A synonym for *to be caused by*.

³ A synonym for *to give a medicine*. **Equivalent in Italian:** "somministrare un farmaco/un medicinale".

to get infected, to develop a vaccine, to give sb a vaccine, to trigger an immune response, and so on);

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

- **compound verbs**

→ → → → see "Verbs in MedVet, part 2",
unit 3, a.y. 2025/2026;

- pay attention to the various functions and usages of the **-ing form**.

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**

→ → → → see Grammar Chart 2,
unit 3, a.y. 2025/2026;

- **add subjective extra meaning;**
- **do not have a verbal paradigm.**

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

⁵ **to attend** is translated as *frequentare, partecipare*.

⁶ **to arrange** is translated as *disporre, sistemare*.

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*.

TYPES OF VERBS

- 01 Regular Verb**
A verb that's past (2nd form) and past participle (3rd form) is made by adding 'd' or 'ed' is called regular verb. 
- 02 Irregular Verb**
If the formation of the verb is otherwise than the regular verb, it is called irregular verb. 
- 03 Linking Verb**
A verb that acts as a link between two words is called linking verb. It connects or links a subject to a noun or an adjective in the predicate. 
- 04 Transitive Verb**
A verb that needs object to complete itself is called transitive verb. It is called transitive because it passes its action from subject to object. 
- 05 Intransitive Verb**
A verb that doesn't need any object to complete itself is called intransitive verb. It does not pass its action from subject to the object. 
- 06 Finite Verb**
Finite verbs mean those verbs which can change their form in accordance with the subject. 
- 07 Infinite Verb**
An infinitive is a verb which has "to" before it. It shows infinite action when is used at the beginning of the sentence. 

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

Transitive and intransitive uses

Some verbs can be used either transitively [T] or intransitively [I]. Look at the following examples:

1) to breed (bred, bred, breeding)¹³

- ✓ Many animals **breed** only at certain times of the year. [I]
- ✓ Highland cows **have been bred** for their meat. [T, passive form]
- ✓ Dogs **have been** selectively **bred** for generations to exhibit specific physical and behavioral traits. [T, passive form]
- ✓ Rabbits **are bred** for their long coats. [T, passive form]
- ✓ Greyhounds **were** originally **bred** as hunting dogs. [T, passive form]
- ✓ She **breeds** sheep. [T]
- ✓ They are attempting to **breed** a new disease-resistant type of corn. [T]
- ✓ Many plants **are bred** to withstand drought and use natural resources like water more efficiently. [T, passive form]

2) to grow (grew, grown, growing)¹⁴

- ✓ He **grows** roses. [T]
- ✓ They **grow** a lot of wheat in this region. [T]
- ✓ The Guinea pigs **grow** well. [I]
- ✓ My cold **has grown into** bronchitis. [I]
- ✓ Tomatoes **grow** best in direct sunlight. [I]
- ✓ Some of these creatures **grew** to a length of over 12 feet. [I]

¹³ Remember the Italian translation of the verb **to breed** in such contexts: (intr.) *riprodursi*; (tr.) *allevare, far accoppiare, selezionare* (una specie animale o vegetale), *coltivare*. Compare it with the verb **to farm**: (tr.) *coltivare, allevare*.

¹⁴ Remember the Italian translation of the verb **to grow** in such contexts: (intr.) *crescere*; (tr.) *coltivare*.

- ✓ The land is used to **grow** crops.

[T]

Warning: pay attention to the differences between English and Italian! Please reflect on the following sentences and the transitive/intransitive use of the verbs in red¹⁵:

1) to enter (entered, entered, entering)

- ✓ "Huge concern about increased risk of *peste des petits ruminants* **entering** Europe [...]";
- ✓ "KBP BioSciences [...] today announced that the US FDA-approved KBP-7026 to **enter** clinical trials for the potential treatment of respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)";
- ✓ "[...] Drug-resistant strains of bacteria could be fatal if they **enter** the human body through uncooked or improperly cooked food [...]";
- ✓ "Tuberculosis Among Foreign-Born Persons **Entering** the United States. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Elimination of Tuberculosis [...]";

2) to suffer (suffered, suffered, suffering)

- ✓ 25% of people who **suffer from** migraines experience vertigo along with their other headache symptoms.
- ✓ Persons experiencing sleep insufficiency are also more likely/susceptible to **suffer from** chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, depression, and obesity, as well as from cancer, increased mortality, and reduced quality of life and productivity.
- ✓ Newborns **suffer** the most serious consequences of listeriosis, including pneumonia, a blood infection, and meningitis.
- ✓ Crops **suffered** serious damage as a result of the floods.
- ✓ Declawing may also be performed to protect people, particularly those who are geriatric, diabetic or have compromised immune systems and so may **suffer** life-threatening complications from cat scratches.

¹⁵ Some transitive verbs, such as **to enter, to fit, to have, to lack, to resemble, to suit, to suffer**, can never be used in the passive voice.

Thus, a **transitive verb** is any verb accompanied by a direct object and from which a passive can be formed; while an **intransitive verb** is any verb that indicates a complete action without being accompanied by a direct object and that does not form a passive.