

# Helping Verbs

*The crew that helps the main verb do its job*

**The pattern:** Helping Verb + Main Verb  
**Examples:** **is** running | **have** finished | **will** go | **can** swim

## BE family

**The crew:** am, is, are, was, were, being, been  
**Helps show ongoing action:** I **am** running.  
**Helps show passive:** The cake **was** baked.

## HAVE family

**The crew:** have, has, had, having  
**Helps show completed action:** I **have** finished.  
She **has** gone home.

## DO family

**The crew:** do, does, did  
**Helps make questions:** **Do** you like pizza?  
**Helps emphasise:** I **do** like it!

## MODAL family

**The crew:** will, would, can, could, should, may, might, must, shall  
**Adds meaning:** possibility, ability, permission  
You **must** try. I **can** swim. We **will** go.

## The Quick Test

Look at any verb in a sentence. Ask:  
**Is this verb DOING the main action, or HELPING another verb?**

*"She **was** running."* → **was** = helping | **running** = main action