

Verbs are an important part of speech, because if a verb is missing, there can't be a sentence!

If you read:  
Jane the wedding

You wouldn't have any idea what was going on. But when you add a verb:  
Jane *missed* the wedding

You'll know she wasn't there (and hope she wasn't the bride!).

Verbs serve several purposes: they make a statement, they ask questions, they give a command, they express action, and they express a state of being.

The dog *ran* home. Statement

Did he *run* home? Question

*Run* home! Command

The dog *ran* after the ball. Action

The dog *is* tired from running. State of being

There are four things to know about verbs:

1. Most verbs are action verbs and express action that is either physical (*talk, run, fall*) or mental (*think, hope, choose*).
2. A linking verb links the subject of the sentence to another word:  
Mary *seemed* strange. This links the subject *Mary* to *strange* to make a statement.  
The most common linking verbs are: *appear, be, feel, grow, look, remain, seem, smell, sound, stay, taste*.
3. An auxiliary verb or helping verb changes the tense, voice, or mood. These include: *be, do, have, can, may, shall, was, will*.
  - a. Tense tells us when something happened, either in the past, present, or future. For example, *drove* is the past, *drive* is the present, and *will drive* is the future.
  - b. Voice tells the relation of the subject to the verb and is either active or passive. When the subject does the acting, the verb is *active* (the boys *cleaned* the garage) and when the subject receives the action, the verb is *passive* (the garage *was cleaned* by the boys).
  - c. Mood can be indicative, subjunctive, or imperative. An *indicative mood* makes a statement of fact (I *ran* a marathon with my sister); the *subjunctive mood* tells what might or could be (If my sister had been well, *we would have run* the marathon); the *imperative mood* gives a command or makes a plea (*Run the marathon, or Please run the marathon.*)
4. Verbs can be transitive or intransitive:
  - a. A *transitive verb* transfers the action from one noun to another and always has an object that receives the action of the verb or completes the meaning of the verb:  
Jane *took* the job. The object *job* receives the action of the verb *took*.
  - b. An *intransitive verb* doesn't transfer action so it doesn't have an object:

The television *broke*. The word *broke* doesn't need anything to complete its meaning, so it is intransitive.

c. An intransitive verb can become transitive:

The television *broke* the stand. Now the object *stand* receives the action of the verb *broke*.

Verbs can be present, past, past participle, or present participle:

<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>	<b>Present Participle</b>
Laugh	Laughed	Laughed	Laughing
Sleep	Slept	Slept	Sleeping
Am, Is, Are	Was, Were	Been	Being
Draw	Drew	Drawn	Drawing
Write	Wrote	Written	Writing

Present tense expresses:

1. Present time:  
We laugh at his antics.
2. Statements that are true all the time:  
The sun rises in the east.
3. Future time:  
We will eat at dinnertime.

Past tense expresses past time:

1. We laughed at his antics
2. The sun rose this morning
3. We ate at dinnertime.

Past participle expresses:

1. Present perfect tense (action that started in the past and is now complete or is continuing):  
We have laughed at his antics
2. Past perfect tense (action completed before another past action):  
We will have eaten by nine o'clock tonight
3. Future perfect tense (action that will be completed before a particular time in the future):  
I will have written 50,000 words by the end of November.

Present participle expresses:

1. Present progressive tense (action still occurring):  
We are eating dinner
2. Past progressive tense (action happening in the past):  
We were eating dinner last night, when the phone rang
3. Future progressive tense (action will happen in the future):  
We will be eating dinner together tomorrow night

4. Present perfect progressive, past perfect progressive and future perfect progressive (same as perfect tense, but indicates that action is continuing):  
We have been eating dinner together every night

Passive verbs use some form of *to be*. Its action is directed toward the subject (whereas an active verb directs the action toward an object):

1. Active: Jim (subject) will head (verb) the meeting (object)
2. Passive: The meeting (subject) will be headed by (verb) Jim

Remember that verbs are necessary to every sentence so that the reader knows what is occurring. Without that action, nothing happens!