

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

A **verb phrase** is a verb that has more than one word. The **main verb** shows action. A **helping verb** shows the time of the action. In the following sentence, *planting* is the main verb, and *are* is the helping verb.

The girls are planting corn with the women.

The helping verbs *am*, *is*, and *are* show present time. *Was* and *were* show past time. *Will* shows future time. The helping verbs *has*, *have*, and *had* show that an action happened in the past. In the following sentences, *had* and *will* are helping verbs.

They had planted in spring. We will harvest in fall.

**Directions** Underline the verb phrase in each sentence.

1. The chief is carving a beautiful pole.
2. He will place it at the entrance of the village.
3. The little boys are learning from the chief.
4. Someday they will carve a pole.
5. They have made many small animals already.

**Directions** Look at the underlined verb in each sentence. Write *M* if it is a main verb. Write *H* if it is a helping verb.

6. Everyone in the village is helping with the crops. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The women had planted the seeds. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The girls have watered the plants. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The boys are picking the beans. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The men will plow the fields. \_\_\_\_\_



**Home Activity** Your child learned about main verbs and helping verbs. Have your child answer the following question: *What were you doing at 3:00 today?* Then have your child identify the main verb and the helping verb in the answer.

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# Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

**Directions** Answer each question. Write a sentence with a main verb and a helping verb.

1. What have people made from wood?

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2. What kinds of trees are growing in your neighborhood?

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3. Suppose you are a Native American living in the Northwest many years ago. What will you do with a canoe?

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4. What animals familiar to the Snohomish people have you seen?

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5. What part of Native American life has interested you the most?

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**Directions** Write two sentences about Native American life. Use a main verb and a helping verb in each sentence.

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**Home Activity** Your child learned how to use main verbs and helping verbs in writing. Ask your child to write a note about something he or she is looking forward to doing in the future. Have your child circle each main verb and underline each helping verb.

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# Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

**Directions** Mark the letter that shows the main verb in each sentence.

- Big trees have grown there for ages.  
 A have  
 B have grown  
 C grown  
 D grown there
- The people have used wood for many things.  
 A used  
 B have  
 C people have  
 D have used
- They are cutting down a fir tree.  
 A are cutting  
 B They are  
 C are  
 D cutting
- They will build a house with it.  
 A They will  
 B build  
 C build a house  
 D will build
- The young men had made canoes of pine.  
 A made  
 B had  
 C had made  
 D made canoes

**Directions** Mark the letter that shows the helping verb in each sentence.

- I am carving a redwood bowl.  
 A carving  
 B am  
 C I am  
 D am carving
- The new bowl will look beautiful.  
 A will  
 B will look  
 C look  
 D look beautiful
- A boy is making a bow and arrows.  
 A is  
 B boy is  
 C is making  
 D making
- He will use them in the forest.  
 A will use  
 B use them  
 C use  
 D will
- We have planted more trees.  
 A have planted  
 B planted  
 C have  
 D We have



**Home Activity** Your child prepared for taking tests on main verbs and helping verbs. Have your child make up two sentences about what he or she will do next weekend. Ask your child to identify the main verb and the helping verb in each sentence.

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# Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

**Directions** Write the main verb and the helping verb in each sentence.

1. The women are sewing animal furs together.

Main verb: \_\_\_\_\_

Helping verb: \_\_\_\_\_

2. She is making a coat.

Main verb: \_\_\_\_\_

Helping verb: \_\_\_\_\_

3. It will keep someone warm in winter.

Main verb: \_\_\_\_\_

Helping verb: \_\_\_\_\_

4. She has created a beautiful hat from bird feathers.

Main verb: \_\_\_\_\_

Helping verb: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** Look at the underlined verb in each sentence. Write *M* if it is a main verb. Write *H* if it is a helping verb.

5. The people were celebrating all day. \_\_\_\_\_

6. They will sing and dance. \_\_\_\_\_

7. The chief had planned the party. \_\_\_\_\_

8. The children are playing games. \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** Write a sentence about a celebration. Use a main verb and a helping verb. Underline the main verb. Circle the helping verb.

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\_\_\_\_\_



**Home Activity** Your child reviewed main verbs and helping verbs. Ask your child to make up a sentence about a party he or she has attended. Have your child include a main verb and a helping verb in the sentence and identify each.