

# Task Cards

by Margaret Whisnant

## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs



*Onslow has been thinking of moving to a new location for several months.*

(has been thinking)

helping verbs                      main verb

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# Task Cards

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## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

Each of the 30 task cards in this set has a sentence with a verb phrase. The student's task is to spot the phrase, write it on the answer card, and circle the main verb to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the difference between a helping verb and a main verb.

These cards are designed for use by 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders as review and skill reinforcements. They are not appropriate for students just beginning to study helping verbs and their function in verb phrases. A reference page is included for student use at the teacher's discretion.

A cover card (which can double as a container label), an instruction card, a page with two answer sheets, and full answer keys are also part of the set.

**Preparation Instructions:** The cards are formatted in color, but they also work well in grayscale.

- Cut card pages vertically at 5½" and individual cards horizontally at 4".
- Answer sheets are designed to be cut 5½" by 7¾".

Please keep in mind that different printers cause the cards to move around on the page slightly, so you might have to make some cutting adjustments.



Margaret Whisnant

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1

## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

Write the full **verb phrase** from the sentence below on your answer sheet. Circle the **main verb**.

I will be studying French during the summer.



2

## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

Write the full **verb phrase** from the sentence below on your answer sheet. Circle the **main verb**.

A strange car has been spotted in the neighbor several times in the past two days.



3

## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

Write the full **verb phrase** from the sentence below on your answer sheet. Circle the **main verb**.

What do you think about this idea?



4

## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

Write the full **verb phrase** from the sentence below on your answer sheet. Circle the **main verb**.

Ryder might have been sleeping when you called.



## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs *Reference Page*

**Verb phrases** are made up of one or more **helping verb(s)** (also called *auxiliary verbs*) and a **main verb**, which is usually the last word in the phrase.

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### Helping Verbs

#### Regular Helping Verbs:

am is are was were be being been  
do did does has have had

**Modal Helping Verbs:** *(Used to express necessity or obligation or indicate that something is possible or probable.)*

shall will should would ought to  
may might must can could

Helping verbs change the meaning of a sentence.

Uncle Patrick **arrived** this weekend from Texas. (He's here!)

Uncle Patrick **will be arriving** this weekend from Texas. (He will be here.)

Uncle Patrick **could arrive** this weekend. (He might be here)

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### Adverbs in Verb Phrases

Don't be confused by **adverbs** that sometimes work themselves into verb phrases:

Mom **has** *already* **finished** the laundry. (**verb phrase**=*has finished*  
**adverb**=*already*)

**Special Note:** The word **not** is NOT a verb. It's an **adverb** that changes a verb to an opposite meaning, even when it's disguised as a contraction.

Sophie *can* **not** go to Alice's party. or Sophie *can't* go to Alice's party.  
(**verb phrase**=*can go* **adverb**=*not n't*)

# Helping Verbs

## Task Card Answer Sheet

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 16. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 17. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 18. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 19. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 20. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ 21. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 22. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ 23. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_ 24. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ 25. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_ 26. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_ 27. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_ 28. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_ 29. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_ 30. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Helping Verbs

## Task Card Answer Sheet

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ 17. \_\_\_\_\_
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6. \_\_\_\_\_ 21. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ 22. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ 23. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_ 24. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ 25. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_ 26. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_ 27. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_ 28. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_ 29. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_ 30. \_\_\_\_\_

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