

Verb Forms

In writing, using different verb forms is a necessity. Whether it is to emphasize a tense, emphasize the singular/plurality of the verb, or to add emphasis on a meaning, the verb forms are a necessity.

Here are your basic verb endings:

1. (verb) + s changes from having a plural subject to having a singular subject. 2. (verb) + s changes the sentence into third person 3. (verb) + ed changes the verb to past tense
4. (verb) + en changes the verb to past participle (in a passive voice)
5. (verb) + ing changes the verb to present / changes verb to an action verb

Let's look at these basic verb forms in sentences:

The dogs **run** to the park.

The verb "run" is in its base form. Every ending for this verb will change some aspect of the sentence.

The dog **runs** to the park.

Notice the "s" ending changes due to the singular noun as a subject.

The man **changed** his clothes.

Notice the "ed" form of "change" switched the tense of the sentence to a past tense.

The man was **stricken** by the car.

Notice the "en" form of "struck" was used in a passive tense with "was" preceding it.

The man is **hitting** the ball.

The verb "hit" is changed with the ending of "ing" to create an action verb. This verb also creates a present tense, as it is preceded by "is."

Just as the verbs can be changed by what follows them, they can also be changed by an auxiliary verb that comes before them.

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| 1. may + (verb) | indicates a possible future tense. |
| 2. have + (verb + en) | indicates a past tense. |
| 3. may be + (verb + ing) | indicates a possible present tense. |

These endings can also be used together to change the meaning of the sentence. For instance, "He may have been eating" changes "eat" to a possible past tense.

So, it can be seen that changing the verb changes the sentence entirely. Learning these rules can help a writer specify exactly what is to be intended in a sentence.