

Verb Phrases

Some simple predicates, or verbs, consist of more than one word. Such verbs are called *verb phrases* (verbs that include one or more helping verbs).

EXAMPLES I **will be using** the computer for the next hour.

What **does** this error message **mean**?

Have you **contacted** the technical service center?

EXERCISE A Underline the verb phrase in each sentence.

Example 1. Trish didn't have an e-mail account until today.

1. I had used a computer only a few times before this school year.
2. My classmates and I will soon be computer experts.
3. Shouldn't every student have experience with the latest technology?
4. We have been using the computer for research assignments.
5. For example, yesterday I was researching Mark Twain.
6. I had not yet read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.
7. I was surfing the Internet in the computer lab.
8. I had quickly found a complete copy of the book on the Internet.
9. Since then, I have read as much of the story as possible.
10. Can you believe my good fortune?

EXERCISE B In each sentence below, the underlined word group contains a word or part of a word that is not part of the verb phrase. Circle this word or word part.

Example 1. Dylan hasn't checked his e-mail today.

11. Please don't forget my e-mail address.
12. Every day during the holidays, I will check my messages.
13. I have always enjoyed your friendly notes.
14. We will probably exchange e-mails all summer long.
15. Isn't technology becoming part of everyone's social life?