Verb Phrases

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

\textbf{EXAMPLES} \quad \begin{tabular}{l}
I will be using the computer for the next hour. \\
What does this error message mean? \\
Have you contacted the technical service center?
\end{tabular}

\textbf{Exercise A} \quad \text{Underline the verb phrase in each sentence.}

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

\textbf{Exercise B} \quad \text{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.}

\begin{itemize}
  \item Example 1. Dylan hasn’t checked his e-mail today.
  \item 11. Please don’t forget my e-mail address.
  \item 12. Every day during the holidays, I will check my messages.
  \item 13. I have always enjoyed your friendly notes.
  \item 14. We will probably exchange e-mails all summer long.
  \item 15. Isn’t technology becoming part of everyone’s social life?
\end{itemize}