

## 12 FUNCTIONS OF VERBS IN A SENTENCE

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Verbs play 12 different functions in a sentence: 1. Verb phrase head, 2. predicate 3. Noun modifier 4. adjective phrase complement 5. verb phrase complement 6. adverbial 7. subject, 8. subject complement 9. direct object 10. object complement 11. indirect object 12. prepositional complement.

**1. VERB PHRASE HEAD:** The verb is head of the verb phrase in a sentence. /Barking **solves** no problem/.

**2. PREDICATE:** A predicate contains at least a verb and also some modifiers like objects, complements and modifiers. /The cat 1.judged 2.it 3.safe 4.to come down/(predicate = 1.verb 2.direct object 3. adjective modifier 4. adjective complement)

**3. NOUN MODIFIER:** A verb can modify a noun in the participial and infinitive forms. /A tree **to climb** was in front of it./ Its food **to eat** was unreachable./ The cat turned to look at the **breathing** dog./

**4. ADJECTIVE PHRASE COMPLEMENT:** The verb can complete the idea expressed by an adjective/Dogs are *unable* **to climb** trees, yet they are *foolish* **to know** so when chasing us./

**5. VERB PHRASE COMPLEMENT:** A verb can complete the meaning of another verb. /The cat *turned* **to look** at the panting dog./

**6. ADVERBIAL:** A verb can modify a whole sentence to indicate place, time, manner, condition, reason etc. **Standing helplessly by the tree**, the dog stared up barking.(manner)/**Owing to his delay**, Paul missed the examination.(reason)/ **Given the time allowed**, I had to hasten up to complete the task(time)/etc

**7. SUBJECT:** A verb can perform the action of another verb which agrees with its number and person concord /**To save face** appeared better for the dog./

**8. SUBJECT COMPLEMENT:** This is a word that follows a linking verb after the subject. /The cat's strength was **knowing how to climb a tree**./

**9. DIRECT OBJECT:** The verb can be the direct object. /The dog learnt **to respect** the cat/

**10. OBJECT COMPLEMENT:** A verb can be the complement of an object. /The dog lacks *claws* **to climb**./

**11. INDIRECT OBJECT:** A verb can be an indirect object. It saw **making the cat a friend** a necessity.

**12. PREPOSITIONAL COMPLEMENT:** A verb can fill the slot of a prepositional complement. It was time **to start chasing mice**.