

Understanding Helping Verbs _____

Helping verbs are verbs that do not show action. They come before the main verbs in sentences to help them by altering the tense or mood of the sentence. Main verbs are either action or linking verbs.

For each sentence, find the main verb. Underline the helping verb(s) that come before the main verb. The first one has been done for you.

Elizabeth and Isabel have been coming to the club meetings.
(“Coming” is the main verb. “Have” and “been” are the helping verbs.)

Jonathan will study for his math test.

Elizabeth could see that Natalya was right.

Lily could have been playing, but she did her homework.

Randall was building a tower with the blocks.

Robert was not reading his book.

The baby should have been sleeping, but he was crying.

Kaylie might dance, and Holly could sing.

I would have been at the picnic, but I could not find the park!

When identifying helping verbs, I feel:

_____ confident

_____ unsure

_____ I need help.

Understanding Helping Verbs Answer Key

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