

# QUICK CLUES TO ENGLISH

## LBCC Developmental Studies

### NON-ACTION VERBS

Non-action verbs are sometimes called helper verbs or a being verbs.

A non-action verb can be one or more words from this list:

am	has
are	have, having
appear, appeared	Is
be (rarely used alone)	look, looking, looked, looks
become, became,	may
being (never used alone)	might
been (never used alone)	must
can	seem, seemed, seeming, seems
could	shall
did	should
do, doing	was
does	were
feel, feeling, feels, felt	will
had	would

1. Non-action verbs can be used by themselves.

He is forty today.

2. They can be used with other non-action verbs.

They will have a party soon.

Ruth should have been here by now.

3. They can be used with an action verb.

The players were running toward the ball.

They had been seeing each other for some time before they decided to get married.

4. Be, been, being are almost always used with another non-action verb.

June will be out of the hospital tomorrow.

Dad has been sleeping for an hour.

That driver is being stopped for speeding.

5. The verbs can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would are always followed by another verb in written English to form the verb in a sentence.

Remember:

- not is not a verb
- words that describe the verb are not verbs (usually, sometimes, never, seldom, always)
- words that end in ly are not verbs (slowly, quickly, probably).