Verb Forms

A verb conveys action or a state of being related to a subject. The entire verb component of a clause is called the **predicate**.

There are two **tense forms** (present or past) and a variety of **modals** (*will*, *would*, *can*, *could*, etc.). Modals combine with the two verb forms to create tenses.

**Present:** We study.  
**Past:** They learned.  
**Future:** He will apply his knowledge.

Verbs are **conjugated** (given their appropriate forms of person and number)
- A verb can be split into two words to show emphasis or contrast
  - Present: We do like to study English (emphasis)
  - Past: We did work, and we did not goof off.
  - A negative is formed by placing a “not” in between the two words
    - I did [not] play.
  - A question puts the subject in between the words
    - Did [John] write his paper last night?

**Participles** are combined with helping verbs such as “have” and “are” to form tenses and other constructions, such as the **passive voice**. These come in two forms:
- Present (usually ending in “-ing”)
  - We were hiking when it started raining.
- Past (can end with “-ed” or a variety of forms)
  - When she had written the paper (past perfect), the paper was looked at (passive voice) by The Write Place and then turned in to the professor.

**An infinitive** is the “root” verb, such as “to go”, “to fly”, etc.
- A modal can come before the infinitive
  - I had to leave when the college closed.
- An infinitive can come after the last verb or participle
  - She might be able to attend if the teacher would be wise to give credit.