

Name _____

Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

A **verb phrase** is a verb that has more than one word. The **main verb** shows action. A **helping verb** shows the time of the action. In the following sentence, *planting* is the main verb, and *are* is the helping verb.

The girls are planting corn with the women.

The helping verbs *am*, *is*, and *are* show present time. *Was* and *were* show past time. *Will* shows future time. The helping verbs *has*, *have*, and *had* show that an action happened in the past. In the following sentences, *had* and *will* are helping verbs.

They had planted in spring. We will harvest in fall.

Directions Underline the verb phrase in each sentence.

1. The chief is carving a beautiful pole.
2. He will place it at the entrance of the village.
3. The little boys are learning from the chief.
4. Someday they will carve a pole.
5. They have made many small animals already.

Directions Look at the underlined verb in each sentence. Write *M* if it is a main verb. Write *H* if it is a helping verb.

6. Everyone in the village is helping with the crops. M
7. The women had planted the seeds. H
8. The girls have watered the plants. M
9. The boys are picking the beans. H
10. The men will plow the fields. H



Home Activity Your child learned about main verbs and helping verbs. Have your child answer the following question: *What were you doing at 3:00 today?* Then have your child identify the main verb and the helping verb in the answer.