

Verbs

Assessment criteria:
311 and 312 – 4.1a
601 and 602 4.1a

“A **verb**, from the Latin *verbum* meaning *word*, is a [word](#) ([part of speech](#)) that in [syntax](#) conveys an action (*bring, read, walk, run, learn*), or a state of being (*be, exist, stand*). In the usual description of [English](#), the basic form, with or without the [particle](#) *to*, is the [infinitive](#). In most [languages](#), verbs are [inflected](#) (modified in form) to encode [tense](#), [aspect](#), [mood](#) and [voice](#). A verb may also agree with the [person](#), [gender](#), and/or [number](#) of some of its arguments, such as its [subject](#), or [object](#).”

Within BSL verbs can be a stand lone verb or use in conjunction with an adverb which describe the verb. These are often done by using the basic verb form with the addition of facial expression, and possibly speed, to show the intended meaning of the verb e.g.

Verb	Adverb	Adverb	Adverb
Walk	walk slowly	walk fast	walk leisurely
Run	run fast	run quickly	jogging
Read	read leisurely	read quickly	read carefully
Learn	learning in bits	learning rapidly	learn progressively
Bring	bring quickly	bring heavy item	bring along
Work	work on	work leisurely	work hard
Stand	stand for ages	stand waiting	stand looking around

Look	look around	stare	gazing
	look at me!	looking back	flirting

(‘Look’ has over 200 different adverbs which can be used in combinations)

Directional verbs:

Some verbs are directional i.e. can move from one person or object to another.

Examples:

Phone	phone me	phone you	phone him/her
-------	----------	-----------	---------------

Visit	Visit you	Visit me	Visit him/her
-------	-----------	----------	---------------

Ask	Ask me	Ask you	Ask them
-----	--------	---------	----------

Explain	Explain to me	Explain to you	Explain to them
---------	---------------	----------------	-----------------

Help	Help me	Help you	Help him/her/them
------	---------	----------	-------------------

Practice these sentences:

You visit me next Wednesday – I visit you next Tuesday.

You come to my house tonight – I come to your house tomorrow.

You phone me this evening – I phone you this afternoon.

Ask me, ask you, ask him/her, ask them, what is the time?

Ask her what he wants.

Lots of people ask me questions, I ask lots of people questions.

Tell me, tell you, tell him/her, tell them the directions

She told him to get out!

Pay me, pay you, pay him/her, pay them by cash.

Explain to me, explain to you how to sign that.

He explained it to her.

Pass on to me, pass on to you, pass on to him/her, pass on to them,
pass it on from one person to the next; pass it on through the generation

Take me, take you; take him/her to the shops

Take it away from me; take it away from you

*Give	give it to me	give it to you	give it to him/her
give it from you to him/her			

**give can be used to show the item being held rather than just the basic form.*

Verbs can be used with affirmation or negation for example:

Yes I did give it to you
 No you didn't give it to me

Yes he explain it to her very clearly
 No it was not explained very well

Inflection of the verb:

As with speech we can emphasise the verb by the use of facial expressions e.g.

Yes I did give it to him!

Nothing was explained to me at all!

He never helped me at all!

You must phone her now!

Tonight I have to go to my mothers' house!

I have to see the vicar tomorrow!

You must write to me now!