

3.2 Verbs - Helping Verbs

- <Helper?>** The **<Helper?>** code precedes the verbs "**been, done, gone, seen**" when they are not preceded, within 3 words, by "**has, have, had**" or a "**to be**" verb. If **been, done, gone,** or **seen** serves as the verb for a subject of a clause, it must be preceded by one of those helping verbs. If **been, done, gone,** or **seen** does not serve as the verb for the subject of the clause, it should not be preceded by one of the helping verbs. This code reminds you to decide whether or not the word is serving as a verb. If it is, be sure to add one of those helping verbs.
- <Delete helping verb>** The **<Delete helping verb>** code precedes the verb "**went**" when that word is preceded, within 2 words, by helping verbs. That code reminds you that you should delete all helping verbs before the verb "**went**."
- <am?is?are?Helper?>** The **<am?is?are?Helper?>** code precedes the word "**be**" when that word is not preceded, within 3 words, by a helping verb. That code reminds you that you should change "**be**" to "**am** or **is** or **are**" or that you should add a helping verb, such as, "**will** or **shall** or **could** or **might**."
- <of have>** The **<of have>** code flags a phrase, such as "**could of**," and suggests that the word "**of**" be replaced with the word "**have**."

Only sentences with flagged helping verb errors are printed.

More Information

<Helper?>

Original sentence: Surely, the quarterback **<Helper?>** seen the guard coming.

- "Seen" is the verb for the subject "quarterback" in this clause.
- Because "seen" is the verb for the subject, the writer must add "**has, have, or had**."

Revised sentence: Surely the quarterback had seen the guard coming.

Original sentence: The Bears' fans **<Helper?>** been cheering for their winning team.

- "Been" is the verb for the subject "fans" or "Bears' fans" in this clause.
- Because "been" is the verb for the subject "fans," the writer must add "**has, have, or had**."

Revised sentence: The Bears' fans have been cheering for their winning team.

Original sentence: The Bears, **<Helper?>** seen on TV, looked good.

- "Looked" is the verb for the subject "Bears" in this clause.
- Because "seen" is not the verb for the subject "Bears," "seen" does not need a helping verb.

Revised Sentence: The sentence needs no revision.

Original Sentence: **<Helper?>** Done for the day, I went home.

- "Went" is the verb for the subject "I" in this clause.
- Because "done" is not the verb for the subject "I," "done" does not need a helping verb.

Revised Sentence: The sentence needs no revision.

<Delete helping verb>

Original sentence: My son has **<Delete helping verb>** went to college to study meteorology.

- "Went" must not be accompanied by helping verbs. Delete "has."

Revised sentence: My son went to college to study meteorology.

Original sentence: The students in my class have **<Delete helping verb>** went to the game.

- "Went" must not be accompanied by helping verbs. Delete "have."

Revised sentence: The students in my class went to the game.

<am?is?are?Helper?>

Original sentence: The leaves <am?is?are?Helper?> be turning red and brown.

- "Be" must either have a **helping verb** or must be changed to "am," "is," or "are."
- Because the verb phrase is "**be turning**," the writer could add a helping verb, such as "**should**" or "**will**" or could change "**be**" to "**are**."

Revised sentences: The leaves will be turning red and brown.

The leaves are turning red and brown.

Original sentence: However, I <am?is?are?Helper?> be ready for snow when I get new skis.

- "be" must either have a **helping verb** or must be changed to "am," "is," or "are."
- Because the verb is "**be**," the writer could add a helping verb, such as "**will**" or "**shall**" or could change "**be**" to "**am**."

Revised sentences: However, I will be ready for snow when I get new skis.

However, I am ready for snow when I get new skis.

<of have>

Original sentence: I could **of** <of have> danced from dusk to dawn.

- Always use "**have**" not "**of**" with verbs, such as "**could**," "**might**," "**may**," and "**won't**."

Revised sentence: I could have danced from dusk to dawn.

Original sentence: Surely, you knew that you may **of** <of have> hurt yourself.

- Always use "**have**" not "**of**" with verbs, such as "**could**," "**might**," "**may**," and "**won't**."

Revised sentence: Surely, you knew that you may have hurt yourself.

Writer's Workbench found **4 potential helping verb error(s)**; **9.09%** of your sentences have helping verb errors.

This topic <am?is?are?Helper?> be approached from the standpoint of pure character analysis only.

He experiences the imminence of the time which could **of** <of have> made of him a true artist.

He has done much, but none of his activities <Helper?> been able to effect order where it was most needed.

The end of the tempest scene, too, as well as its characters, has <Delete helping verb> went to a further bearing on the beginning of the creative process.