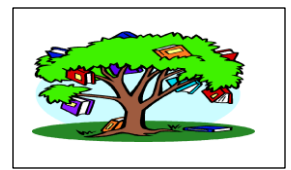


# Toward Better Literacy: Reference Outlines



## 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.
- o A negative is formed by placing a “not” in between the two words  
I did [not] play.
- o 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
  - o I had to leave when the college closed.
- + An infinitive can come after the last verb or participle
  - o She might be able to attend if the teacher would be wise to give credit.