F. [Scott](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Scott) Fitzgerald is [quoted](https://www.definitions.net/definition/quoted) as saying, “All fine [prose](https://www.definitions.net/definition/prose) is [based](https://www.definitions.net/definition/based) on the [verbs](https://www.definitions.net/definition/verbs) carrying the sentence.”  
  
Let’s look back and make [certain](https://www.definitions.net/definition/certain) we all [understand](https://www.definitions.net/definition/understand) the five [kinds](https://www.definitions.net/definition/kinds) of verbs. Broadly, we have two [groups](https://www.definitions.net/definition/groups) of main verbs, [action](https://www.definitions.net/definition/action) and no-action, [which](https://www.definitions.net/definition/which) further [break](https://www.definitions.net/definition/break) down into four [types](https://www.definitions.net/definition/types) of main verbs.  
  
**Action Verbs**  
  
**1.**[**Transitive**](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Transitive)**verbs** are [those](https://www.definitions.net/definition/those) action [verbs](https://www.definitions.net/definition/verbs) that can have a noun [attached](https://www.definitions.net/definition/attached) directly to them, as in write book, hit ball, or answer questions.  
  
**2.**[**Intransitive**](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Intransitive)**verbs** are [those](https://www.definitions.net/definition/those) action [verbs](https://www.definitions.net/definition/verbs) that [cannot](https://www.definitions.net/definition/cannot) attach [directly](https://www.definitions.net/definition/directly) to a noun; they need the help of a preposition, as in walk ***to*** the store, comply ***with*** the regulations, proceed ***with*** the inquiry.  
  
**No-Action Verbs**  
  
**3. The verb to be** can [serve](https://www.definitions.net/definition/serve) either as a main verb or as an [auxiliary](https://www.definitions.net/definition/auxiliary) verb. When it acts as a main verb, it [typically](https://www.definitions.net/definition/typically) couples a [grammatical](https://www.definitions.net/definition/grammatical) subject with an [adjective](https://www.definitions.net/definition/adjective)(predicate adjective), as in John is big or The [*sunset*](https://www.definitions.net/definition/sunset) is beautiful. Or it [couples](https://www.definitions.net/definition/couples) a [grammatical](https://www.definitions.net/definition/grammatical) subject with [another](https://www.definitions.net/definition/another) noun (predicate noun), as in Mary is president or War is hell.  
  
Or it [might](https://www.definitions.net/definition/might) couple a [grammatical](https://www.definitions.net/definition/grammatical) subject with a phrase, as in  
  
The book is on the table  
  
or  
  
He is from the South.  
  
When it acts as an [auxiliary](https://www.definitions.net/definition/auxiliary) verb, the verb to be [forms](https://www.definitions.net/definition/forms) the [progressive](https://www.definitions.net/definition/progressive) tense, as in We are studying grammar, or the [passive](https://www.definitions.net/definition/passive) voice, as in The ball was hit by John.  
  
**4.**[**Linking**](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Linking)**verbs** are non-be [verbs](https://www.definitions.net/definition/verbs) that link a [grammatical](https://www.definitions.net/definition/grammatical) subject to an [adjective](https://www.definitions.net/definition/adjective)(Watermelon [*tastes*](https://www.definitions.net/definition/tastes) good), to a noun (She [*seems*](https://www.definitions.net/definition/seems) an [*honest*](https://www.definitions.net/definition/honest) woman), or to a [phrase](https://www.definitions.net/definition/phrase)(He [*looks*](https://www.definitions.net/definition/looks) out of sorts).  
  
Those are the four [types](https://www.definitions.net/definition/types) of main verbs: (1) action transitive, (2) action intransitive, (3) no‑action to be, and (4) no‑action linking.  
  
**5. The**[**fifth**](https://www.definitions.net/definition/fifth)**kind of verb** is not a main verb, but an (5) auxiliary verb, also [called](https://www.definitions.net/definition/called) a helping verb. It does not form a [sentence](https://www.definitions.net/definition/sentence) all by itself. Instead, it [hooks](https://www.definitions.net/definition/hooks) up with a main verb and [helps](https://www.definitions.net/definition/helps) it show [various](https://www.definitions.net/definition/various) tenses or [conditions](https://www.definitions.net/definition/conditions) or states, as in By the time I arrived, he had [*completed*](https://www.definitions.net/definition/completed) the assignment.  
  
Now it’s time to take a look at the [various](https://www.definitions.net/definition/various) forms of a verb, [particularly](https://www.definitions.net/definition/particularly) its infinitive, finite, and two [participial](https://www.definitions.net/definition/participial) forms.  
  
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You may [download](https://www.definitions.net/definition/download) our [entire](https://www.definitions.net/definition/entire) discussion of the [Parts](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Parts) of Speech. [Simply](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Simply) download the [Grammar](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Grammar) eBook [*Understanding the*](https://www.grammar.com/download-grammar-ebooks/)[*Parts*](https://www.definitions.net/definition/Parts)*of Speech*.