

## INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH VERBS

Verb is a word which expresses an action or a state or an occurrence, with that expresses the existence of a state *now, like* or the doing of an action *now, in the past*. Verbs are used to express distinctions in time *past, present, future* through tenses. English verbs make the verbal aspect *perfective/imperfective* and for that reason there is a wide range of English verb tenses. The Czechs often misunderstand this basic difference and tend to use English tenses incorrectly.

# MASTER ENGLISH VERB TENSES

## AUXILIARY VERBS

### **Contents**

1. Principal auxiliaries
2. Modal auxiliaries
3. Semi-modal verbs

BE, HAVE, DO  
CAN, COULD, MAY, MIGHT, MUST, OUGHT, SHALL,  
SHOULD, WILL, WOULD  
NEED, DARE, USED

Verbs can also be used as auxiliaries – have negatives and participles like ordinary verbs.

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positive  
negative  
passive

*What are you doing with it?*

*They were discussing the problem when he came up with his idea.*

### **HAVE**

is used with the past participle to form the perfect aspect.

*They have been watching it for hours.*

*They have just announced it.*

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