

Technical English for Engineers
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Lecture – 10
Verbs

We continue with our discussion of how we make words, how and what are words.

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So, we are talking about how we make words and categories of words that we use in our day-to-day language, in our English language. So, specifically today we are going to talk about verbs. Verbs **mean** verbs as well as supporting verbs and we are going to see what they are. Then, we will see some idioms comparatives. Comparatives as in adjectives, what are adjectival **will** comparatives and then, we will also do some listening with lots of exercises. So, we are going to talk about verbs.

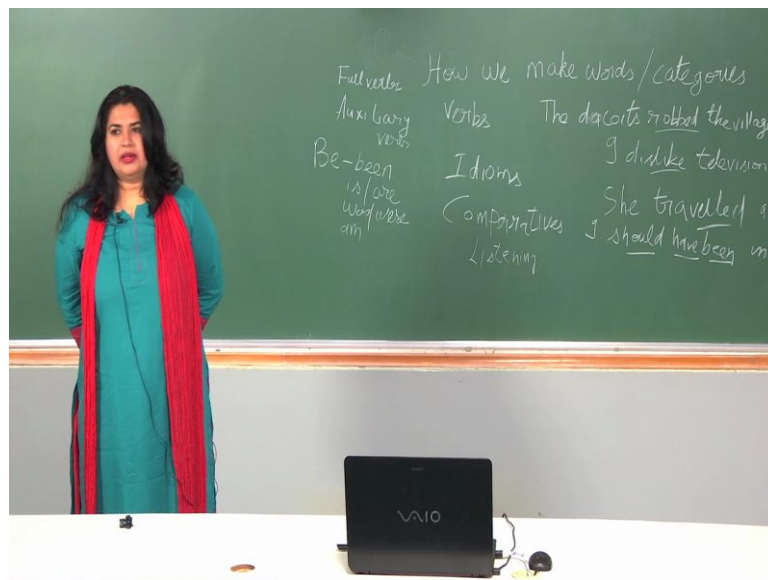
Now, look at the sentences. The dacoits robbed the village, I dislike television soaps. So, I have underlined the verbs here. She travelled across the country. So, travel, so these are verbs. Now, what do verbs suggest? Verbs suggest action. They indicate action. So, what did the dacoits do? They robbed. What do television soaps mean to me? I dislike. So, that is a feeling, but here it is used as a verb. I like television soaps. So, again it is like I mean you are using a prefix here. “Dis” you can also use like in a, send that meaning may

change from dislike to like, but still the verb would not. So, dislike or like or love or hate; all these are verbs. They suggest action.

Now, she travels across the country. She travels. Travelling is an action. Now, all these are single words, single verbs, single words but you can also use something like I should have been, I should have been doing anything. I should have been in Europe right now, but I am not. **You see, but still your word** **Your verb is should have been** **in a** **It is a** different category. So, all these are, all the underlined words are verbs here.

Now, there are verbs that can stand on their own. Robbed, dislike, travelled; they are called full verbs. They can stand on their own without depending or referring to other verb. So, again let us think of examples. Let us collect our things. Verb is collect. She made a machine, she made a doll and she made a dress. So, made is a full verb. They conducted an experiment. Conduct is a verb. These are all full verbs. They do not need other verbs to support them or the words to support them; however these are another category called auxiliary verbs.

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You have full verbs that do not need any support, you have auxiliary verbs. Now, what are auxiliary verbs? These are also called helping verbs. Now, let us look at the examples of auxiliary words or verbs i.e. shall, should, can, could, may, might, will, would. Additionally, you also have may, sorry, must. In certain cases you have need also. I need a book, I must have a book, and you must do this. So, these are auxiliaries. Now, let us

think of a sentence like I can do this, I can drive. Now, drive is the main verb, but can is an auxiliary for helping verb. However, there is an. We have to be careful. We do not say can able to drive. So, can does not go. I am able to drive, I can drive, but we do not use the two verbs together like I can able to drive. This is wrong. So, please keep these points in mind.

There are also some other auxiliary verbs. Now, one is be-type. Be-type as in, is, are, was, were, and also am, be, it, can, be, been, the, but we use generally use for is, are, was, as. When we use the present tense, then am first person is singular. I am teaching, I am student, I am studying. So, I am, is an auxiliary. It is very important. Be is a very important auxiliary and it has all these forms. We also have form has, had, have and then, we have the do form like do, does, and when it becomes past tense, we have did I, do not like it, I did not watch it and she does not like it, she did not do it. So, these are the auxiliaries.

Sometimes these words, these verbs can also act as full verbs and also as auxiliaries. So, let us say I am good. Now, I am good. It doesn't matter I am good at what? I am good at whatever, I am good at studying, I am good at writing, I am good at painting, but here let us remember you have only one main verb that is am and it's a be form of here. So, it can also function as a full verb. So, always keep these distinctions in mind, where to use them as full and where to use them as auxiliaries; however we do not been mixing them as can able to do it.

Now, some examples I am going to give you some examples. Let us look at the slide.

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Examples

- Water boils at 100 degree.
- Oxygen is a gas.
- This metal is a good conductor of electricity.
- Wood floats on water.
- Some kinds of wood sink in water.
- Action and reaction are opposite and equal.
- This acid is dangerous.

Water boils at 100 degree. Oxygen is a gas. This metal is a good conductor of electricity. Wood floats on water. Some kinds of wood sink in water. Action and reaction are opposite and equal and this acid is dangerous. So, where are the verbs and what are the kinds? So, let us go through these sentences again. Let us look at them again. Water boils at 100 degree. Main verb is boils. Oxygen is a gas. Main verb is, it is a be form of auxiliary. So, here it acts as a full verb. This metal is a good conductor of electricity. Now, conductor is not a verb. Here 'is' is the verb. Wood floats on water. Float is the main verb. Some kinds of wood sink in water. Now which is the main verb? Here sink that denotes action. Action and reaction are opposite and equal. Only one main verb that are this acid is dangerous and is again is a main verb. These chemicals are dangerous are again becomes your main verb. So, these are the examples where auxiliaries do not need any other verb.

Now, let us look at this exercise.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:18)

Exercise

- [The Environment Protection Agency \(EPA\) on Friday accused](#) VW of installing illegal “defeat device” software that dramatically reduces nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions – but only when the cars are undergoing strict emission tests. The EPA **accused** Volkswagen of using the device in 482,000 four-cylinder Volkswagen and Audi diesel cars in the US since 2008. VW **must recall** all the cars, **remove** the defeat device and **improve** the cars’ NOx emissions, which **creates** smog and **has been linked** to increased asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses.

Let's look at the passage here and I will read it out for you. I have already highlighted the verbs here. You should be able to identify what verbs are **those** and where are the auxiliaries?

The EPA on Friday accused VW; that is Volkswagen of installing illegal “defeat device” software that dramatically reduces nitrogen oxide emissions, but only when the cars are undergoing strict emission test. Now, how many verbs do you find in the first sentence itself? Let us go through it again. What did EPA do? It accused. So, accused is a main verb here and installing is another verb here. Illegal defect that dramatically reduces, reduces also is your verb here. It is a complex sentence in which we have multiple verbs, but only when the cars are undergoing. So, you have are undergoing here. The be form ‘are’ is an auxiliary strict emission test. Now, I have done second part of the passage for you and in all the verbs are highlighted.

The EPA accused Volkswagen of using, again using is a verb. The device has this much four-cylinder Volkswagen and the diesel cars in the US since 2008. Volkswagen must recall and must recall is another verb. Recall and must is an auxiliary here. At the cars remove the defeat device and improve the cars nitrogen oxide emissions, which create smog and have been linked to increased asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses. So, so many verbs are used in a variety of ways with or without auxiliaries.

Let us look at this.

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- The EPA **said** Volkswagen **could** face other action and fines for the alleged breach of the Clean Air Act. The maximum fine for violations of the act **is** \$37,500 per vehicle, which **works out** to a maximum possible fine as high as \$18bn.

The EPA **said**, again said is a main verb here. Volkswagen **could** face other action and fines for the alleged breach of the Clean Air Act. So, could is an auxiliary. The maximum fine for violations of the act is this much US dollars per vehicle, which **works out** is a phrasal verb to a maximum possible fine as high as 18 billion dollars. So, here you are just seen a very good example of a complex piece of writing. This is not an easy composition; this requires an advanced level understanding of how to use auxiliaries? How to mix auxiliaries? How to use main verbs and how to combine auxiliaries with main verbs? I am giving you this exercise and here I want you to rewrite the following using 'is' or 'are' in the main verb form. So, please look at this sentences I will read them out for you.

(Refer Slide Time: 15:29)

Exercise

- Rewrite the following using is/are in the main verb:
 - i. These complicated experiments.
 - ii. Oxygen necessary for living.
 - iii. Angles measuring 90 degrees right angles.
 - iv. Sea water salty.
 - v. One revolution of the earth completed in 365 and $\frac{1}{4}$ days.

These complicated experiments. I want you to write be form of the verb here, whatever place you think appropriate; Oxygen necessary for living. Angles measuring 90 degrees right angles. Sea water salty and one revolution of the earth completed in 365 and one-quarter days. Where do we insert the, is, or, are? The 'be' form of main verbs here, let us solve it. These are complicated experiments. Oxygen is necessary for living. Angles measuring 90 degrees are right angles. Sea water is salty. And one revolution of the earth is completed in 365 and one-quarter days. So, here we have just seen how is and are used as main verbs.

Let us move on to do another exercise. Please take a look here.

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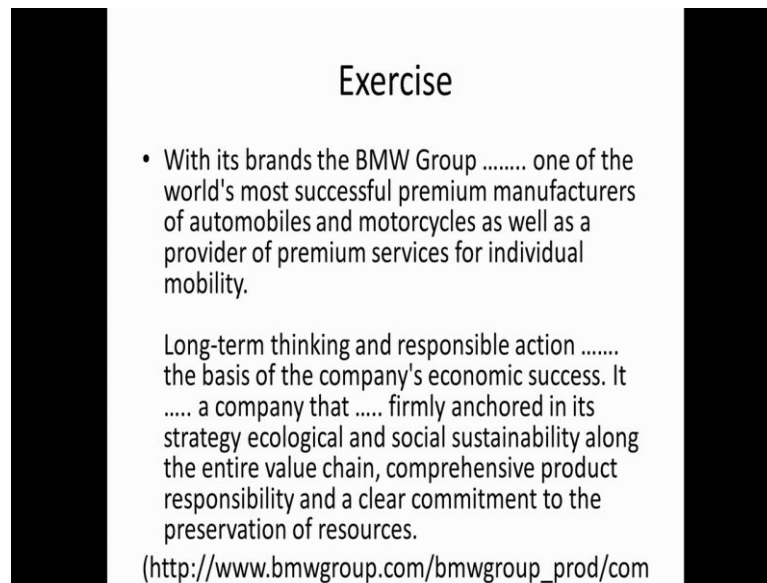
Exercise: Has/have/is

- i. Water.....a boiling point temperature of 100 degrees.
- ii. Steel.....a metal alloy.
- iii. This cara speed of 150 km/hour
- iv. A triangle.....3 lines.
- v. The highwaya length of several hundred kilometers.

At this exercise I want to you use has, have, or, is, wherever appropriate. Let us solve it. Water, it wont be is a boiling point temperature. Water has a boiling point temperature of 100 degrees, steel is a metal alloy. What is steel? It is a metal alloy. The car or this car has a speed of 150 kilometer per hour. A triangle has three cone comprises, consists of three lines. The highway has a length. Not is a length has a length. We are talking about a particular highway and what are the qualities? It has a length of several hundred kilometers. So, how we use is, has, have, or **is**.

Now, let us move on to do another exercise. This is a fairly complex one. I will read it out for you. Look at the text.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:24)



Exercise

- With its brands the BMW Group one of the world's most successful premium manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles as well as a provider of premium services for individual mobility.

Long-term thinking and responsible action the basis of the company's economic success. It a company that firmly anchored in its strategy ecological and social sustainability along the entire value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to the preservation of resources.

(http://www.bmwgroup.com/bmwgroup_prod/com)

With its brands the BMW group dash one of the world's most successful premium manufactures of automobiles and motorcycles as well as a provider of premium services for individual mobility. Long-term thinking and responsible action dash the basis of the company's economic success. It dash, a company that dash firmly anchored in its strategy ecological and social sustainability along the entire value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to the preservation of resources. So, how do we solve it?

With its brands, the BMW group is one of the most, one of the world's most successful premium manufacturer's. Next Para is long-term thinking and responsible action is the basis of the company's economic success. It is a company that has firmly anchored in its strategy ecological and social sustainability along the entire value chain. So, with its brands the BMW group is one of the second answer long-term thinking and responsible action is the basis. It is a company that has firmly anchored in its strategy ecological and social sustainability along the entire value chain.

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- Rolls-Royce Motor Carsthe pinnacle luxury automobile manufacturer in the world. Based in Goodwood, West Sussex, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars supplies customers with cars thatrenowned for their supreme quality, exquisite hand craftsmanship and attention to the finest detail. This reputation built up over the company's long-lasting, richly traditional history. Today the company's Phantom und Ghost models continue the finest traditions of the past, delivering the promise of effortless power, silence and a ride that likened to wafting along on a magic carpet.

Let us move on to another passage, the next passage.

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars dash the pinnacle luxury automobile manufacturer in the world. Based in Goodwood, West Sussex, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars supplies customers with cars that dash renowned for their supreme quality, exquisite hand craftsmanship and attention to the finest detail. This reputation dash built up over the company's long-lasting, richly traditional history. Today the company's Phantom and Ghost models continue the finest traditions of the past, delivering the promise of effortless power, silence and a ride that dash likened to wafting along on a magic carpet.

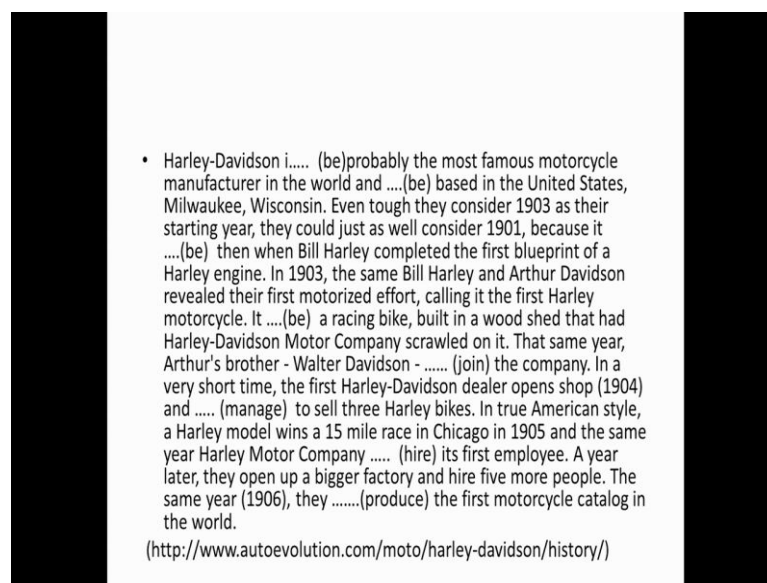
So, let us solve it. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is the pinnacle luxury automobile manufacturer in the world. Based in Goodwood, West Sussex, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars supplies customers with cars that are renowned for their supreme quality, exquisite hand craftsmanship and attention to the finest detail. This reputation is built up over the company's or we can even use was built up over the company's long-lasting, richly traditional history. Today the company's Phantom and Ghost models continue the finest traditions of the past, delivering the promise of effortless power, silence and a ride that is likened to wafting along on a magic carpet. So, this is the way we have to solve.

Let us look at why Rolls-Royce car, motorcars is the pinnacle luxury automobile because here, we are talking about manufacturer. So, it has to be 'is', just because we are not talking about multiple cars here. So, therefore the verb would not be are, **now, a, here, is,**

an. I would like to give you an exercise. You please do it yourself and I would like you to write a description of any vehicle you like or prefer or would you want to use and make sure that you use a plenty of main verbs and auxiliaries verbs and use is and have forms. So, is and has forms here. So, that is your, do it yourself exercise.

Now, let us move on to doing another exercise. What I want you to do? I would like you to use the correct form of the verbs given in the bracket. So, let us look at the exercise here.

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- Harley-Davidson i..... (be)probably the most famous motorcycle manufacturer in the world and(be) based in the United States, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Even though they consider 1903 as their starting year, they could just as well consider 1901, because it(be) then when Bill Harley completed the first blueprint of a Harley engine. In 1903, the same Bill Harley and Arthur Davidson revealed their first motorized effort, calling it the first Harley motorcycle. It(be) a racing bike, built in a wood shed that had Harley-Davidson Motor Company scrawled on it. That same year, Arthur's brother - Walter Davidson - (join) the company. In a very short time, the first Harley-Davidson dealer opens shop (1904) and (manage) to sell three Harley bikes. In true American style, a Harley model wins a 15 mile race in Chicago in 1905 and the same year Harley Motor Company (hire) its first employee. A year later, they open up a bigger factory and hire five more people. The same year (1906), they(produce) the first motorcycle catalog in the world.
(<http://www.autoevolution.com/moto/harley-davidson/history/>)

Harley-Davidson dash and you have to use the, be form of the verb here. Probably the most famous motorcycle manufacturer in the world and dash again use the, be form, based in the United States, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Even though they consider 1903 as their starting year, they could just as well consider 1901 because it dash, then when Bill Harley completed the first blueprint of a Harley engine. In 1903 the same Bill Harley and Arthur Davidson revealed their first motorized effort calling it the first Harley motorcycle. It dash the, be form, a racing bike, built in a wood shed that had Harley-Davidson motor company scrawled on it. That same year Arthur's brother Walter Davidson joined the company. In a very short time, the first Harley-Davidson dealer opens shop in 1904 and dash to sell three Harley bikes. In true American style, a Harley model wins a 15 mile race in Chicago in 1905 and the same year Harley motor company

dash hired its first employee. A year later, they opened up a bigger factory and hired 5 more people. The same year in 1906, they dash the first motorcycle catalog in the world.

Let us solve the exercise. **Let us look at it again.**

Harley-Davidson is probably the most famous motorcycle manufacturer in the world and is based in the United States, Milwaukee because it was because now we are suddenly talking about the past, so 1903. So, they could just as well consider 1901 because it was then, when Bill Harley completed the first blueprint. Next line, it was a racing bike. So, now from present we are talking about Harley-Davidson. What is it? It is the most famous motorcycle in the world and then, we are talking about it is to therefore, verb from is present to was, as **an**, **a** past the **first** Harley motorcycle. It was a racing bike built in a wood shed that had Harley-Davidson motor company scrawled on it.

That same year Arthur's brother joined the company. In a very short time, the first Harley-Davidson dealer opens shop and managed to sell three Harley bikes. **Into** **true** American style, a Harley model wins a 15 mile race in Chicago in 1905 and the same year Harley motor company hired its first employee. A year later they opened bigger factory and they hired five more people. The same year they produced the first motorcycle catalog in **a** **the** world.

Now, here this is an interesting example. Why? **It is** because it begins with is now, but the tone of the passage is such, that you can also replace many of the past tense with **this** because he is just talking about as if it just happened yesterday, as if it just happened recently. So, therefore year later they open up and the last sentence a bigger factory and hire five more people. Now, here again you need not worry about hired or hire, but you have to be very careful. It was a racing bike built in a yard. That **is** definitely past tense. The same year Walter Davidson joined the company, but it could also be he joins the company. Why? It is because well it is you know more creative to use the verb in this way. In a very short time, the Harley-Davidson dealer opens shop, not opened **a** shop. So, he is almost using in a very literary way. So, let us not get confused about these things.

Now, I am going to give you another exercise and here the verbs are extremely clear. You have to use fill in the blanks using these verbs travelled, claimed, learnt, raced. Please look at the slide.

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Complete the following:

- travelled
- Claimed
- Learnt
- Raced
- goes
- Became
- Arrive

These are the words verbs that you should be using here and fill in the blanks. Travelled, claimed, learnt, raced goes, became, arrive.

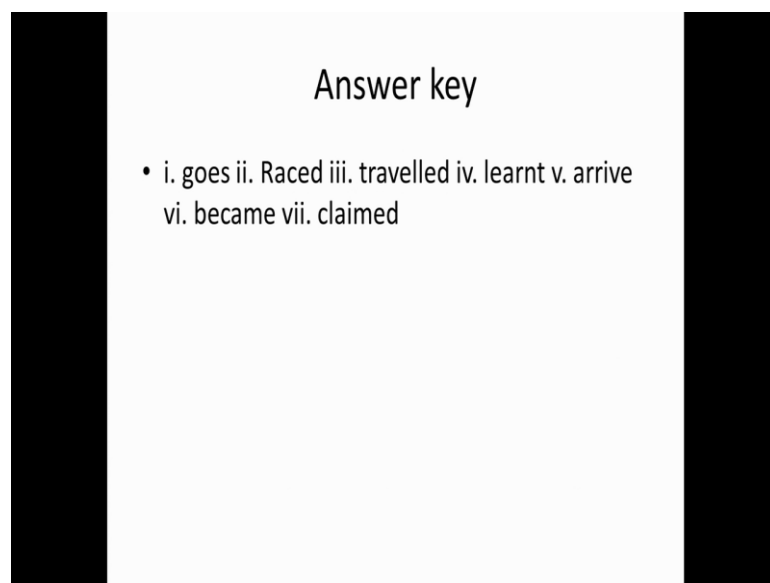
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- Motor racing in Argentina has a long history that back to the opening decades of the 20th century, when wealthy enthusiasts took to the country's open roads andeach other in cars often imported from Europe but fitted with American V8 motors. By 1940, these races had grown longer and more organised. One such racealmost 6000 miles from its starting point in Buenos Aires, north across the Andes and finished in Lima, Peru, 13 days later.It was in these races that Argentina's most famous racer his craft. 'El Maestro', Juan Manuel Fangio, was born in the Buenos Aires province of Balcarce. He started his career in the 1930s, but true fame and success would later in life. He travelled to Europe to compete in Grand Prix machinery in 1948 and the star of the first decade of the Formula 1 world championship. In 1950, Fangio narrowly lost the inaugural F1 title to Alfa Romeo team-mate Giuseppe Farina but the crown for the first time the following season.

So, this is the passage **here**. Motor racing in Argentina has a long history that dash back to the opening decades of the 20th century, when wealthy enthusiasts took to the country's open roads and dash each other in cars often imported from Europe, but fitted with American V8 motors. By 1940, these races had grown longer and more organized. One such race dash almost 6000 miles from its starting point in Buenos Aires, north

across the Andes and finished in Lima, Peru, 13 days later. It was these races that Argentina's most famous racer dash his craft 'El Maestro', Juan Manuel Fangio was born in the Buenos Aires province of Balcarce. He started his career in the 1930s, but true fame and success would dash later in life. He travelled to Europe to complete in Grand Prix machinery in 1948 and dash the star of the first decade of the Formula-1 World Championship. In 1950, Fangio narrowly lost the inaugural F1 title to Alfa Romeo team mate Giuseppe Farina, but dash the crown for the first time for the following season. Work it out and I will give you some time.

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Answer key

- i. goes ii. Raced iii. travelled iv. learnt v. arrive
vi. became vii. claimed

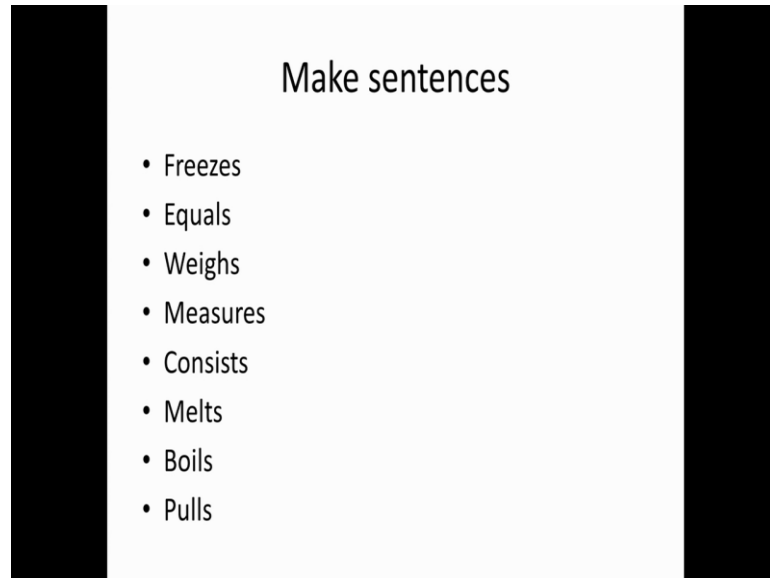
So, the answers are first blank is goes, second is raced, third travelled, fourth learnt, fifth arrive, sixth became and last one is claimed. I will read it out.

In 1950, Fangio narrowly lost the inaugural F1 title to Alfa Romeo teammate Giuseppe Farina, but claimed the crown for the first time the following season. Now, look at these examples. These are all main verbs. We are not now dealing with auxiliaries here, but we have looked at main verbs throughout. However, in a Harley-Davidson passage we have looked at a mix of auxiliaries and also, a mix main verbs and the idea was that how sometimes main verbs can be used in present and past depending on the style of the writer.

Now, in the Harley-Davidson passage, we have seen it is, he uses a style where past almost merges into present. So, therefore, throughout he uses a sense, a tone, which is

more related to the present tense or the present time is like nothing ever changed for Harley-Davidson. That is the context. Therefore, he consistently uses the main verb in present tense form. I am now going to give you a list of verbs. Look at this list.

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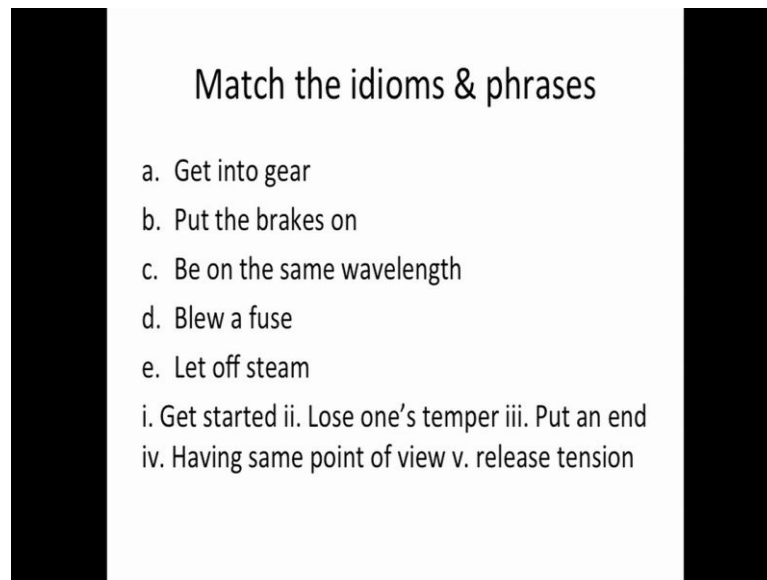
The slide features a white background with a black border on the left and right sides. At the top center, the text 'Make sentences' is displayed in a black, sans-serif font. Below this title, a bulleted list of eight verbs is presented in a smaller black font. The verbs are: Freezes, Equals, Weighs, Measures, Consists, Melts, Boils, and Pulls, listed from top to bottom.

- Freezes
- Equals
- Weighs
- Measures
- Consists
- Melts
- Boils
- Pulls

I would like you to make sentences of your own. These are the words that you may come across in your day to day studies or writings; Freezes, equals, weighs, measures, consists, melts, boils and pulls. Use them in sentences of your own. Let us move on to do now idioms and phrases.

Idioms and phrases are those words or those expressions that add more variety, more color, more novelty to your expression and the way you use English language. So, here are a couple of idioms. The meanings are given at the bottom; however you need to match the idioms with their meanings. Let us look at the first one.

(Refer Slide Time: 32:36)



Match the idioms & phrases

- a. Get into gear
- b. Put the brakes on
- c. Be on the same wavelength
- d. Blew a fuse
- e. Let off steam
- i. Get started ii. Lose one's temper iii. Put an end
- iv. Having same point of view v. release tension

Get into gear. Put the brakes on. Be on the same wavelength. Blew a fuse. Let off steam. Please look at the answers given below; however, you have to match the answers. So, I would suggest that now that you have a dictionary, you please use your dictionary and see which meaning fits, which idiom.

So, thank you very much.

Tags

Reading English, English for Engineers, English words, English Exercise, Exercises in English, Grammar usage, English Grammar, vocabulary, words and phrases, spoken communication, written communication, English writing, English speaking, scientific English, report writing, CV, formal letter, Speech-Preposition, Noun Phrases, Countable and uncountable nouns, singular, plural

Essay writing, word categories, word formation, formal tone, paragraph writing, tone in writing, speaking tone, signal words, Letter writing, understanding essays, Mechanics of Essays, publishable essays, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, propositions, determiners, linking words, 'be' form, linking words, reading, listening, sentence, Subject, Verb, Object, Articles