

THE HELPING VERB

EXERCISE

Complete the verbs in the following sentences by writing suitable helping verbs in the spaces provided. Then underline the entire verb phrase. The word **not** is not part of the verb. **Not** is an adverb.

1. Someone _____ has _____ broken into the house.
2. His car _____ was _____ going too fast for safety.
3. I _____ was _____ waiting for Helen.
4. _____ have _____ you met my father?
5. It _____ will _____ be later than you think.
6. _____ can _____ you help me?
7. _____ have _____ you have a good time?
8. There _____ have _____ been serious consequences.
9. Mr. Larson _____ has _____ not _____ been _____ persuaded to change.
10. If he _____ had _____ read better, he _____ would _____ learn more.

EXERCISE

Each line below contains a verb phrase. First find the verb phrase and underline it.

Helping Verbs Main Verbs

1. your eyes before you will believe it?
2. Since the Greeks could not see the
3. air, they did not consider it real.
4. Anaxagoras, however, would not agree
5. with the crowd. He had discovered
6. that the air must be something real.
7. Anaxagoras had had a revealing
8. experience. One day he was carrying a
9. goatskin which had been filled with

10. air. (This goatskin may be compared
11. to a football.) While he was walking
12. on the beach, he must have stumbled
13. over a rock. He did not get hurt
14. because the goatskin had hit the ground
15. first and the air inside had acted as
16. a cushion. Something, air, had broken
17. what could have been a very hard fall.
18. Like Anaxagoras, we must admit that
19. the air does contain something real.
20. We could not even breathe if the air
21. did not contain oxygen. Scientists
22. have also found nitrogen in the air.
23. Other elements have been found.
24. We may discover new facts about air
25. now that we are probing outer space.