A **helping verb** helps the main verb express action or a state of being. Together, a main verb and at least one helping verb make up a **verb phrase**.

Example: He **will be leading** the orchestra tonight.

Note: Some helping verbs may also be used as main verbs.

Exercise 1

1. Even today people can find positions as shepherds, inventors, and candlestick makers.
2. It might seem strange, but these people have decided that ordinary jobs have become too boring for them.
3. Some people have been working as messengers.
4. You may have seen them when they were wearing clown makeup or costumes such as gorilla suits.
5. Other people have been finding work as mimes.
6. They can be seen performing at circuses, fairs, and festivals.
7. Chimney sweeps still do clean chimney flues for people.
8. Some chimney sweeps may even wear the traditional, old-time clothes of the trade.
9. With a little imagination, anyone can find an unusual job.
10. What unusual jobs can you name?