Identifying Helping Verbs

Helping verbs are placed before other verbs to form verb phrases.

EXAMPLES: *has* opened

 w*ill have* opened

 *could have been* opened

 *is being* opened

 Helping Verbs

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| am | be | have | shall |
| is | been | has | should |
| are | being | had | can |
| was | do | may | could |
| were | did | might | will |
|  | does | must | would |

Underline the helping verbs once, the main verbs twice.

EXAMPLE: More people should have been encouraged to study flight.

1. During the eighteenth century, few people had applied themselves to the study of flight.

2. Flapping-wing machines had been studied by Leonardo da Vinci during the fifteenth century.

3. Three important aviation devices were being invented in Europe.

4. These early inventions might have been an inspiration to da Vinci.

5. By 1809, Sir George Cayley had begun to develop the concept of the modern airplane.