

## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

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

**EXAMPLES** I **have read** many of Ernesto Galarza's poems.

**Have you read** any of his poems?

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the helping verb(s) and two lines under the main verb.

**Example 1.** Ernesto Galarza was born in Mexico.

1. When did the Galarza family move to Sacramento, California?
2. Other Mexican families had also immigrated to the United States.
3. Many of them had come to the United States for economic reasons.
4. In what year did Galarza publish his first book?
5. Many people have been enjoying his works for years.
6. Many are reading his works in the original Spanish.
7. Galarza has written about the struggles of farmworkers.
8. You have probably read some of his poetry.
9. Did you read the poetry in Spanish or in English?
10. You may like his poem about Mother Nature.
11. It is translated as "Copy from an Old Master."
12. Most young readers do enjoy his poem about the traffic light.
13. Will we be reading any of his poems in class this year?
14. Your teacher may recommend his book *Short Poems for Youngsters*.
15. This collection was published in 1971.
16. You will learn valuable lessons from these poems.
17. Galarza has been called the Father Goose of Mexican children.
18. Which poem should we read first?
19. Galarza's autobiographical work is titled *Barrio Boy*.
20. Does your literature book contain excerpts from *Barrio Boy*?