## UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER 20+hyabyeaaredunlike

modal verbs because they can function alone in a sentence, acting as the main verb.

Have+ Past Tense Verb

- 1) This construction indicates the Present Perfect tense, and can be used to describe an action that happen at an unspecified time in the ast:
  - x Elisahasdiscussedher options with the counselor and decided to drop the class. At some point, Elisa talked to her counselor, then decided to drop the class.
- 2) It can also be used to describe an action that began in the past and is still going on.
  - x Gene and George haweorkedat the deli for two years. Gene and George started working at the deli two years ago, and are still working there.

## Had+ Past Tense Verb

1) This construction indicates the Past Perfect Tense, and is used to describe actions that began and ended

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## Was+ Verbing

1) This construction indicates these Continuous tense, and can be used to describe an action that was in progress in the past, often to set the scene for an action that interrupted.

- x Elisawas discussingner options with the counselor when the power went out. Elisa was in her counselor's office, and while they were talking there was a power outage.
- 3) It can also be used to describe several actions that were in progress simultaneously in the past.
  - x Genewas washing the cutting boards and George was sorking at the counter. Gene and George we meorking on different tasks at the same time.

Practice:Though helping verbs have an important role in writing, remember that most writing is clearer in the

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