Kinds of Verbs

7th grade

P. 364

As you know, every sentence has two parts, the subject and the predicate.
The key word in the predicate is the verb.
The verb tells what the subject of the sentence is, has, does, or feels.

- Burt works at the park.
- He trims the trees.
- He loves his job.
- He paints the benches.
Action Verbs

- Most verbs are **action verbs**. Some action verbs refer to physical action that can be seen by other people.
- Others refer to mental action that cannot be seen.
  - Physical Action: The gardener **feeds** the ducks.
  - Mental Action: She **likes** the migrating birds best.

Being Verbs (a.k.a. Linking Verbs)

- Other verbs express a state of **being**.
- These verbs do not refer to action of any sort. They simply tell what the subject is.
  - Burt **is** the gardener’s assistant.
  - He **seems** afraid of the swans.
  - One swan **looks** angry.
  - In fact, swans **are** hungry.
The most common being verbs are forms of be itself.

- Am
- is
- Are
- Was
- Were
- Be
- Being
- been

Other being verbs:

- Appear
- Become
- Feel
- Grow
- Look
- Seem
- Remain
- Smell
- Sound
- Stay
- taste
Identify each verb in the sentences below. Does it express action or being?

- We parked and locked our bicycles in the rack at the library.
- Many, many resources were available there.
- I considered several books about wild animals.
- All of the books looked interesting.
- Finally, I decided on one about tropical birds.
- The book described many birds from countries in Central and South America.
- I especially liked the photographs in the book.
- The pictures of the birds are very colorful.
- Some of the birds’ feathers are pink, orange, red, and green.
- I carried the book home in my backpack.

Linking Verbs

- A verb that expresses a state of being often functions as a **linking verb**.
- A linking verb links, or connects, the subject with a noun or an adjective in the predicate that names or describes the subject.
  - Peanut is a toad.
  - Peanut is tiny.
Some verbs can function as either linking verbs or action verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linking Verbs</th>
<th>Action Verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The lily pond smells stagnant.</td>
<td>The squirrel smells its food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The gardener felt tired.</td>
<td>She felt the tree’s thick leaves.</td>
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</tbody>
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Action or Linking??

- To help you decide whether one of these verbs is a linking verb, try substituting is, am, are, was, or were for the verb. If the sentence still makes sense, the verb is probably a linking verb.
- The pigeons look comical. (The pigeons are comical)
- The swan’s hiss sounds fierce. (The swan’s hiss is fierce)
Which sentence in each of the following pairs contains a linking verb.

- 11. A monkey appears from behind a tree. It appears excited.
- 12. The young deer grew taller. The male deer grew antlers.
- 14. The koala tastes a leaf. Does it taste good?
- 15. We smell the eucalyptus tree. It smells pleasant.
- 16. We feel the tree’s bark. It feels smooth.

List the verbs in the sentences below. Label each verb action or being.

- 17. Photographs, television, and movies show us a variety of unusual creatures.
- 18. We can see animals in their natural habitat in national parks, nature sanctuaries, or even city parks.
- 19. Few animals look strange to us today.
- 20. Some animals still seem unusual, however.
- 21. The anteater is one example.
- 22. The head and snout of this animal form a long tube.
- 23. A giant anteater becomes six feet long.
- 24. It grows a coarse coat of hair.
- 25. The front toes and claws of the anteater fold under.
- 26. The animal actually walks on its knuckles.
List the verbs in the sentences below. Label each verb action or being.

- 27. The giant anteater usually appears shy.
- 28. It enjoys dark, wet tropical forests.
- 29. Ants and termites appear in this animal’s diet.
- 30. The anteater is a peaceful animal.

Predicate Nouns

- A predicate noun will appear after the LINKING verb. (In the predicate—duh!)
- A predicate noun must be a person, place, or thing that renames the subject.
- For example:
  - Mrs. Hout is my teacher.
  - Her new pet was a dog.
Predicate Adjectives

• Predicate adjectives come after a LINKING verb (again,...in the predicate!!)
• Predicate Adjectives will describe the subject.
• For example:
  • My brother is very tall.
  • Our new preacher seems very friendly.

Steps to Find Predicate Adjectives Or Predicate Nouns

• Find the verb
• Determine if it is ACTION or LINKING. With words that can be BOTH, substitute is or are; was or were. If the sentence makes sense when substituting with these words the verb is LINKING—go on to step 3. If the sentence does NOT make sense, the verb is ACTION, and there will NOT be a predicate noun or adjective.
• Look AFTER the verb to see if there is something that RENAMES the subject (Predicate Noun—person, place, or thing) or something that DESCRIBES the subject (Predicate Adjective) Predicate nouns and adjectives must come AFTER the LINKING verb!!
Underline each verb. Label it as "LV"—linking verb, or "AV"—action verb. If there is a linking verb circle the predicate noun or adjective. Label as PN or PA.

1. Our pitcher appears very nervous today.

2. The catcher ran very quickly.

3. She seems quite agile.

4. She caught the ball.

5. The pitcher was a good hitter.

6. He was also a fine fielder.

7. The player at 3rd base threw the baseball.

8. It sailed into the outfield.

9. Fans of the team grew ecstatic.

10. The ball flew into the bleachers.

11. Fans of the home team seem confident today.

12. The team looked wonderful for the first 3 innings.

13. The home team was the winner yesterday.

14. The mayor walks onto the field.
A **helping verb** is a verb that HELPS the main verb tell what the subject is doing, or helps the main verb make a statement. Some of the most common helping verbs are linking verbs such as: is, am, are, was, were, have, had, has, could, should, will, and be.

A **verb phrase** is the helping verb(s) and the main verb together. For example:

The students are **jumping rope**.

Present participles (main verbs) end in **ING**. Helping verbs used with present participles are is, am, are, was, were.

He **was walking** to a neighbor's house.

Past participles (main verbs) end in **ED**. Helping verbs used with past participles are have, has, and had.

He **had walked** to a neighbor's house.
Underline the correct helping verb and the correct participle (main verb). Label as past or present participle.

We (are, have) learning about archery.

Champions (are, had) making archery more popular.

Competitive archery equipment (are, has) changed very little.

People (are, have) playing in tournaments each year.

Archers (was, had) founded the National Archery Association.

Tournaments (have, are) increased people’s interest in archery.

More people (have, are) enjoyed target archery than other types.

Competitors (are, have) shooting down a long course at targets.

1. Concentric wire circles are dividing the target into sections.

2. An archer is earning ten points by a direct hit in the bulls-eye.

3. The archers have practiced for at least 3 hours a day.

4. Archers are marking their targets.

5. Archers are working hard in today’s competition.

6. That archer has earned the most points so far.

7. She has scored several bulls-eyes.