

Verbs

A verb tells you what the subject in the sentence is doing or being.

For example: I am going to the store.

The verb am going tells you what the subject (I) is doing.

A verb is a necessary element in a sentence. You can even express a complete thought using only a verb.

For example: Run!

Action vs. Non-action verbs

Verbs can tell you what the subject is doing. These are called action verbs.

For example:

Luke threw the ball at Leia.

Amanda reads the newspaper every morning.

Even when the action is figurative (not literal), it counts as an action verb.

For example:

She broke the school record. → Nothing is actually being broken, but it is still an action verb.

However, verbs can also indicate the subject's state of being, sense, emotion, desire, possession, or opinion. These are called non-action verbs. The most common non-action verb is to be. (être)

For example:

I am tired.

Jessica owns a car.

Howard will always love his first dog.

A. Choose the verb(s) in the sentence by clicking on the blue box in front of the word.

1. ☐ Mary ☐ likes ☐ avocado ☐ more ☐ than ☐ cucumber.
2. ☐ King ☐ Arthur ☐ pulled ☐ the ☐ famous ☐ sword, ☐ Excalibur, ☐ from ☐ the ☐ stone.

3. ☐ My ☐ father ☐ bought ☐ me ☐ a ☐ cookbook ☐ for ☐ Christmas.
4. ☐ Do ☐ you ☐ read ☐ before ☐ bed?
5. ☐ I ☐ could ☐ eat ☐ pasta ☐ everyday.
6. ☐ Cynthia ☐ decorated ☐ her ☐ bedroom ☐ with ☐ fairy ☐ lights ☐ that
☐ twinkle.
7. ☐ Teachers ☐ know ☐ how ☐ to multitask; ☐ I ☐ created ☐ these
☐ exercises ☐ while ☐ I ☐ watched ☐ Netflix.
8. ☐ The ☐ stairs ☐ lead ☐ to ☐ the ☐ attic.

B. Tell me if the verb (in bold) in the sentence is an action verb or a non-action verb. Write **action** or **non-action**.

1. This winter **is** the coldest one on record. _____
2. Henry **prepared** a candlelight dinner for his true love.

3. I **drink** green tea every day. _____
4. The hotel **looks** fantastic. _____
5. Captain Barbossa **was** a ghost and a villain. _____
6. Greg **organized** a party for his friend's birthday.

7. Perhaps if you **had listened** to me more carefully, you would understand.

8. Meghan **seemed** troubled by this unexpected turn of events.

9. Candace always **wears** pink. _____
10. Jazz **owns** a second-hand grand piano. _____