Name: _____

Action Verb Or Linking Verb?

Some verbs can be action or linking depending on how they are used in a sentence. Examples of these words include taste, smell, appear, look, feel, and sound.

How do you tell the difference? Easy! Replace the word with am, is, are, was, or were. If the sentence still makes sense, the word is being used as a linking verb. If the sentence doesn't make sense, the word is being used as an action verb.

examples:

Sentence: Sam looked tired.
Test: Sam was tired.
Conclusion: Makes sense. Looked is a linking verb.



Sentence: Sam looks at every book carefully.
Test: Sam is at the book carefully.
Conclusion: Does not make sense. Looks is an action verb.

Write an A on the blank line if the underlined word is an action verb.
Write an L on the blank line if the underlined word is a linking verb.

1. _____ I felt angry after my sister dropped the last piece of cake on the floor.
2. _____ Maria felt the straps to make sure they were fastened correctly.
3. _____ The guard sounded the alarm when the enemy approached.
4. _____ That sounds like an excellent idea.
5. _____ The vegetable stew tasted too salty.
6. _____ Alex tasted his dad's new chili recipe.
7. _____ The old chest smelled moldy when I opened it.
8. _____ The dog smelled my dirty clothes.
9. _____ I looked across the fields to watch the hunters come home.
10. _____ My sister looked pretty when she left for the dance.