

## Action Verbs

An **action verb** is a word that shows action.

An action verb shows what someone or something does or did.

**Example:** The sunlight reflects off of the waves.

➤ **Underline the action verb in each sentence.**

1. Juanita peeked at her brother's book.
2. Each spring, we plant seeds in the garden.
3. My pet quickly grew from a small puppy to a large dog.
4. Henri helped with the dishes after dinner.
5. Ellie observes the plants in the science lab.
6. Alexei invited all of his classmates to the game.
7. The runners raced to the finish line.
8. My aunt asks about my day in school.
9. The friends agree on almost everything.
10. New blooms arrive in the spring.

➤ **Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure all of your action verbs are used correctly.**

## Main and Helping Verbs

The **main verb** in a sentence tells what the subject is or does.

**Example:** You are leaving too soon.

The **helping verb** helps the main verb show an action or make a statement.

Common helping verbs: *am, is, are, was, were, will, shall, should, have, had, has, can*

**Example:** You are leaving too soon.

> In each sentence, circle the helping verb and underline the main verb.

1. My two young neighbors are acting silly.
2. The members of my team should practice often.
3. I was thinking about our summer vacation.
4. The reporters can tell the story well.
5. The dog will want its bone.
6. Every day, Maura would stroll through the neighborhood.
7. I have decided on my afternoon plans.
8. Benicio had always wanted a pet gerbil.
9. Before school, I am going to my friend's house.
10. You could find that book in the library.

> Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure all of your main and helping verbs are used correctly.

## Being and Linking Verbs

A **linking verb** links the subject of a sentence to a noun or adjective. A linking verb does not show action.

**Example:** My brother looks happy today.

A **being verb** shows what the subject is or is like. A being verb is a kind of linking verb.

**Example:** My brother is happy today.

➤ **Underline the being verb or linking verb in each sentence.**

1. Soccer is a popular sport.
2. My math teacher looked quite happy.
3. The class partners seemed to get along well.
4. The competition became very tense.
5. You appeared calm and not worried.
6. At the concert, our seats seemed a long way from the stage.
7. Soccer is a very exciting game.
8. I felt good about my performance.
9. The sky is dark and overcast today.
10. The team was ecstatic about the playoffs.

➤ **Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft to make sure all of your being and linking verbs are used correctly.**

## Review Verbs and Verb Phrases

### Kinds of Verbs

An **action verb** is a word that shows action. It tells what someone or something does or did.

The **main verb** in a sentence tells what the subject does or is.

A **helping verb** helps the main verb show an action or make a statement.

Common helping verbs: *am, is, are, was, were, will, shall, should, have, had, has, can*

The main verb and the helping verb(s) form a verb phrase.

**Example:** They will come later.

A **linking verb** links the subject of a sentence to a noun or adjective.

Some linking verbs are **being verbs**, which show what the subject is or is like.

### > Underline the verb phrase in each sentence.

1. I should call you more often.
2. We will eat in the lunchroom today.
3. My friend can help with the assignment.
4. The teacher will hold meetings tomorrow.

### > Circle each verb. Write whether it is an action verb or a linking verb.

5. We learned new debate styles in class this afternoon. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Julia appeared glad about the pleasant weather. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Each night, Stefan practiced his lines for the school play. \_\_\_\_\_

### > Revisit a piece of your writing. Edit the draft as you check to make sure you have correctly used verbs and verb phrases.

## Connect to Writing: Using Action and Linking Verbs

➤ Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

*Yasmine wrote a paragraph about helping her younger brother with his homework. Read her paragraph, and look for any revisions she could make to provide more exact verbs. Then answer the questions that follow.*

### Trouble with Homework

(1) My brother asked for help with his homework as he said, "Poor me!"  
(2) "I don't know what I'm going to do," he said. (3) As I reviewed his assignment, he walked into the kitchen in a huff. (4) "You just don't get it," he said. (5) "You never struggle with your math assignments. (6) You always do everything right."

1. Which states the best way to make sentence 1 exact?
  - A. My brother asked for help with his homework as he whined, "Poor me!"
  - B. My brother asked for help with his homework as he stated, "Poor me!"
  - C. My brother requested help with his homework as he said, "Poor me!"
  - D. Make no change.
  
2. Which states the best way to make sentence 3 exact?
  - A. As I looked at his assignment, he walked into the kitchen in a huff.
  - B. As I reviewed his assignment, he went into the kitchen in a huff.
  - C. As I reviewed his assignment, he marched into the kitchen in a huff.
  - D. Make no change.

➤ When have you helped someone? Write a short paragraph about your experience. After you have written your paragraph, check to see how you can revise action verbs and verb phrases to be more exact. Write your first draft and the revision on this page.

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