

# Practice with Verbs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pd: \_\_\_\_\_



**Verbs** are words used to express an action, a condition, or a state of being. The two main kinds of verbs are action verbs and linking verbs. Both kinds can be accompanied by helping verbs.

## **ACTION Verbs:**

An action verb tells what the subject does. The action may be physical or mental.

The fish **swims** in water. (physical action)

I **believe** in unicorns. (mental action)

## **LINKING Verbs:**

A linking verb links the subject of the sentence to a word in the predicate. The most common linking verbs are forms of the verb be.

We **were** late to class.

I **feel** tired.

Some verbs may serve as either action verbs or as linking verbs.

The rabbit **appeared** from the bush. (action)

It **appeared** frightened. (linking)

### **Common Linking Verbs**

|                              |                                                                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forms of <i>BE</i>           | be, is, am, are, was, were, been, being                             |
| Verbs that express condition | appear, become, feel, grow, look, seem, smell, sound, remain, taste |

## **HELPING Verbs:**

A helping verb helps the main verb express action or show time. They are combined with the main verbs to form verb phrases.

The bear **has run** away. (The helping verb is **has**. The main verb is **run**.)

A few verbs can serve as either helping verbs or main verbs.

That bear **has** a baby cub. (The main verb is **has**.)

### **Common Helping Verbs**

|                      |                                                          |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Forms of <i>BE</i>   | be, is, am, are, was, were, been, being                  |
| Forms of <i>HAVE</i> | has, have, had                                           |
| Forms of <i>DO</i>   | do, does, did                                            |
| Others               | could, should, would, may, might, must, can, shall, will |

# Identifying Verbs

Underline the verb or verb phrase in each sentence. On the line to the right, label the verb A for action or L for linking. If the sentence also has a helping verb, underline it and add the label H to the line to the right.

**Samples:** My family likes the zoo in our city.

A

The kangaroos will be safe inside their mothers' pouches.

L, H

1. The kangaroos hop across the fields.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. I admire the big cats for their grace and power.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The monkeys easily swing from one tree to another.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The restless monkeys often sound noisy.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The prairie dogs scurry in and out of their holes in the ground.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Their movements are rapid.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The koala bears have climbed the eucalyptus tree.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The peacock seemed more beautiful than before.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. In the rain forest display at the zoo, the birds looked strange and exotic.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. The goats in the children's zoo are hoping for treats.

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Panda bears are rare.

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Soon the hippopotamus will emerge from the murky water.

\_\_\_\_\_

13. The hippopotamus can hold its breath for a long time.

\_\_\_\_\_

14. The snake's skin feels rather smooth.

\_\_\_\_\_