

Verbs

What is a verb?

- A **verb** is a word that shows an action or state of being. In other words, they explain what something is or is doing.

He **ran** quickly. (action)

He **is** happy. (state of being)

QuickTime™ and
TIFF (Uncompressed) video
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decoder
are needed to see this picture.

There are many kinds of verbs. Here are some I want you to know

- Action and Linking Verbs
- Helping and Main Verbs

Action Verbs

- An **action verb** shows action. It shows what someone (or something) is doing.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) deco
are needed to see this pic

Example: The boy **swam** in the lake.

(Swimming is an action.)

Linking Verbs

- A **linking verb** connects the subject to a word (or words) that are describing the subject



QuickTime™ and
TIFF (Uncompressed)
are needed to see this

The man **is** funny.

(*Man* is being linked to the descriptive word *funny*.)

Commonly Used Linking Verbs

- Forms of Be:

am	be	being	was

- Other Verbs:

appear	grow	seem	stay
are	become	is	was
become	look	smell	taste
feel	remain	sound	turn

Action or Linking?

- To find out if a verb is an action or linking verb, substitute a form of be for the verb. If the sentence still makes sense, it's usually a linking verb. If the sentence doesn't make sense, it's usually an action verb.

* Note: Forms of be and seem are always linking verbs

Action vs. Linking Verb

Examples

- Joe **plays** baseball.
 - Joe **is** baseball. (The sentence does not make sense, so it is an action verb.)
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- The roses **look** pretty.
 - The roses **are** pretty. (The sentence makes sense, so it is a linking verb.)

Main Verbs

- Some sentences have several verbs working together to mean one thing. The **main verb** is the verb that's most specific about what the subject is or is doing.

The girl could have **gone** to the zoo.

The dog may **eat** dinner soon.

Helping Verbs

- When sentences have several verbs working together, the **helping verbs** are the verbs that are helping the main verb.

The girl could have gone to the zoo.

The dog may eat dinner soon.

A List of Helping Verbs...

- *am, are, is, was, were, be, being, been, do, does, did, shall, will, may, must, might, have, has, had, can, could, would, should*
- Note: Some helping verbs can also be linking verbs. How do you know which is which? You have to see how they're being used in the sentence.

Helping or Linking Verb?

- The boy **is** funny. (This is a linking verb because *boy* is being linked to the descriptive word *funny*.)
- The boy **is** running. (This is a helping verb because *is* helps *running* make sense.)

An Easy Tip to Remember

- When trying to decide if a word is a helping verb or linking verb, ask yourself these two questions:
 - Are there other verbs in the sentence?
 - Is this verb helping the other verbs make sense?

If the answer to these questions is yes, than you have a helping verb on your hands.

Time to Review

- Take some time now to review your notes. If you have any questions, please be sure to ask.