

Lesson 1

What Is a Verb?

Teaching

A **verb** is a word 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 appear with helping verbs.

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

I **repair** cars. (physical action) I **know** a lot about cars. (mental action)

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*, as in *We **are** late.*

Linking Verbs

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

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

The chef **tastes** the desserts. (action)
The cake **tastes** delicious. (linking)

Helping verbs help the main verb express precise meaning. They are combined with the main verbs to form **verb phrases**.

He **has planted** the crops. (The helping verb is *has*. The main verb is *planted*.)

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

He **has** a tractor. (The main verb is *has*.)

Common Helping Verbs

Forms of <i>have</i> : has, have, had	Forms of <i>be</i> : be, am, is, are, was, were, been, being
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 with **A** for action or **L** for linking.

- The technician programs the computers. _____
- The marketer thinks of new marketing slogans for commercials. _____
- An opera singer sounds amazing. _____
- She was a banker, in charge of investment. _____
- Every fireman smells for smoke at the scene of a fire. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Verbs

Underline the verb or verb phrase in each sentence. On the line to the right, label the verb with **A** for action or **L** for linking.

1. The teacher should take attendance every day. _____
2. The hard-working plumber was early. _____
3. Those secretaries appear very busy this afternoon. _____
4. A policeman did question the suspect after the incident. _____
5. The cab driver was driving extremely fast down the street. _____
6. Her mother, Naomi, is a tax attorney with her own business. _____
7. The construction crew will build that house in less than a month. _____

B. Identifying Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

In Exercise A, find four sentences that use helping verbs. In the chart below, write those sentence numbers and the parts of each verb phrase in the correct columns.

Number	Helping Verbs	Main Verb
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

C. Using Verbs

In each sentence, replace the underlined verb. Use a more specific verb if possible.

1. My hairdresser cleans my hair before she cut it. _____

2. The reporter makes an article for the daily newspaper. _____

3. The florist cuts the ends of the flower stems. _____

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Application

A. Identifying and Replacing Verbs

In each sentence, underline the verb or verb phrase. If the verb is an action verb, rewrite the sentence with another action verb. If possible, use a more specific verb. If the original verb is a linking verb, simply write **Linking**.

1. The musician plays his guitar for the new band.

2. During the fall, we collect the leaves in our yard.

3. The veterinarian appears competent and friendly.

4. The painter did stir the paints together.

5. The coach knows the game of football very well.

6. The interior decorator recommended a new coat of paint.

B. Using Verbs

On each line, write the action verb from the list below that makes sense in the sentence and paragraph. Be sure to use the correct form of the verb. Underline every linking verb.

to study to tell to calculate to help to like

Our class visited the Career Center today. It is interesting. The counselors _____ us about the job opportunities available. For example, as a social worker, we could _____ all the children who are less fortunate. Jennifer _____ the ocean and its marine life. So, she might _____ the ocean life as a marine biologist. For me, the job of an accountant seems appealing. I can _____ answers to complicated math problems very easily. College degrees are necessary now for most professions.