

THE VERB

A verb is a word that tells of an action or state of being.

Action verbs are verbs of doing something: hope, dream, run, speak.

ex. I read many magazines. Dolores ate the taco.

Linking verbs describe a state of being. These verbs link the subject to a noun or adjective.

ex. Jim is sleepy. Sue was tired.

The word be is a linking verb, as are its forms: am, are, is, was, were, be, been, and being. Other linking verbs include appear, become, seem, sound, feel, remain, stay, and look.

ex. Helen seems calm. The children remained quiet.

Linking verbs can become action verbs when they indicate action.

ex. I felt the soft fabric.

Identifying Action Verbs and Linking Verbs. In the following sentences, underline each verb. Then write "A" for action or "L" for linking.

Example: Jane feels happy again. L

1. Joe cooked dinner for the family. _____
2. The boy seemed restless after the long program. _____
3. The popcorn smells good. _____
4. We stayed quiet for an hour after dinner. _____
5. Our dog always strains at its leash. _____
6. Liz Smith pitched for our team in the game yesterday. _____
7. The pizza tastes good. _____
8. Eve was secretary of her graduating class. _____
9. The boys appear calm again after all the excitement. _____
10. I play the piano an hour every day. _____
11. Our new puppy chews everything in sight. _____
12. The audience grew quiet. _____
13. Marge stayed quiet after her bout with the flu. _____
14. The boys feel tired after their long hike. _____
15. I tasted the hot soup carefully. _____
16. We grow both flowers and vegetables in our garden. _____
17. Carla asked her teacher about the exam. _____
18. Your house seems very large. _____
19. Which one of the two ideas sounds better to you? _____
20. Jack tripped over the rug. _____

1. Joe cooked dinner for the family. A
2. The boy seemed restless after the long program. L
3. The popcorn smells good. L
4. We stayed quiet for an hour after dinner. L
5. Our dog always strains at its leash. A
6. Liz Smith pitched for our team in the game yesterday. A
7. The pizza tastes good. L
8. Eve was secretary of her graduating class. L
9. The boys appear calm again after all the excitement. L
10. I play the piano an hour every day. A
11. Our new puppy chews everything in sight. A
12. The audience grew quiet. L
13. Marge stayed quiet after her bout with the flu. L
14. The boys feel tired after their long hike. L
15. I tasted the hot soup carefully. A
16. We grow both flowers and vegetables in our garden. A
17. Carla asked her teacher about the exam. A
18. Your house seems very large. L
19. Which one of the two ideas sounds better to you? L
20. Jack tripped over the rug. A