

Action Verbs

A **verb** shows action. An **action verb** tells what a person or thing does.

action verb

The airplane **lands** on the runway.

action verb

People **stare** at their watches.

Action Verbs

Identify the action verb in each sentence.

- ➊ The airplane flies through the air.
- ➋ The airplane arrives at the airport.
- ➌ People rush through the airport.
- ➍ Travelers hold suitcases.
- ➎ Travelers stand around the lobby.
- ➏ The door to the airplane opens.
- ➐ People walk down the ramp from the airplane.

Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

Some verbs are more than one word. The **main verb** is the most important verb. The **helping verb** comes before the main verb.

helping verb *main verb*
The children **are** **looking** for a place to have a picnic.

Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

Identify the helping verb and main verb in each sentence.

- ➊ The children have packed a big lunch.
- ➋ Sofia is carrying the picnic basket.
- ➌ The children are climbing a steep hill.
- ➍ Tomas is pointing to a large field.
- ➎ Ricardo can see birds in the sky.
- ➏ The children will enjoy the sunny day.

Linking Verbs

A **linking verb** tells what someone or something is or is like.

Most linking verbs are forms of the verb *be*. The words *appear*, *become*, and *seem* can also be linking verbs.

linking verb

The students **are** eager to learn.

Linking Verbs

Identify the linking verb in each sentence.

- ➊ The teacher is ready to begin class.
- ➋ The students are quiet.
- ➌ Armando appears confident as he raises his hand.
- ➍ Alicia thinks, "I am smart because I know the answer."
- ➎ The teacher becomes happy when the students succeed.
- ➏ The students seem to enjoy learning.

Review Verbs

A verb is a word that can show action. When a verb tells what people or things do, it is called an **action verb**. When a verb tells what someone or something is like, it is called a **linking verb**. Most linking verbs are forms of the verb *be*, such as *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, and *were*.

action verb

The reporter **rushed** to the stadium.

linking verb

People **were** excited for the game.

Review Verbs

A verb may be more than one word. The **main verb** tells what the action is. The **helping verb** comes before the main verb and tells more about the action. Some helping verbs are *has, have, had, should, would, could, can, and may*.

helping verb *main verb*
Thousands of people **had** **gathered** at the stadium.

Review Verbs

Identify the verb or verbs in each sentence. Tell whether each verb is an action verb, a linking verb, a helping verb, or a main verb.

- 1 My dad and I watched the game.
- 2 The players were running onto the field.
- 3 Rodriguez is my favorite player.
- 4 They should sit in their seats.
- 5 The fans cheered for the team.
- 6 I was happy our team won.

Connect to Writing: Using Action, Main, Helping, and Linking Verbs

You can make your writing clearer and more interesting by using verbs correctly.

Sentence with Weak Verb	Sentence with Stronger Verb
The alien came out of the spaceship.	The alien climbed out of the spaceship.
A crowd is in the field.	A crowd has gathered in the field.

linking verb

main verb

The aliens **can** **dance** at the feast.