



VERBS

This part of speech shows action or
state of being



Tips to remember when looking for verbs

- A sentence is not a sentence without at least one verb
- Verbs usually tell about an action
- Verbs are often found in the middle of sentences
- Verbs may consist of one word
- Verb phrases may have up to five words
- Verb phrases can be interrupted by small words like not, never, always
- Verbs change their form to tell about actions taking place at different times

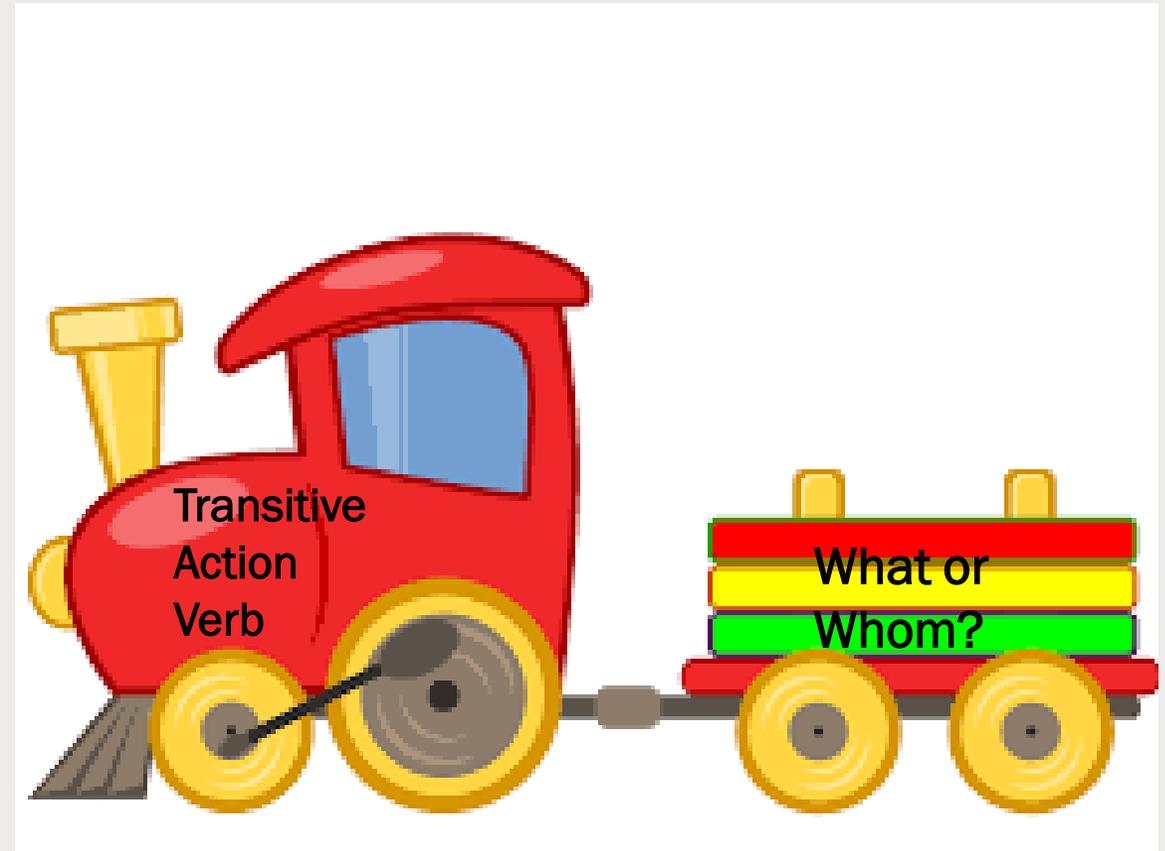
Action Verbs

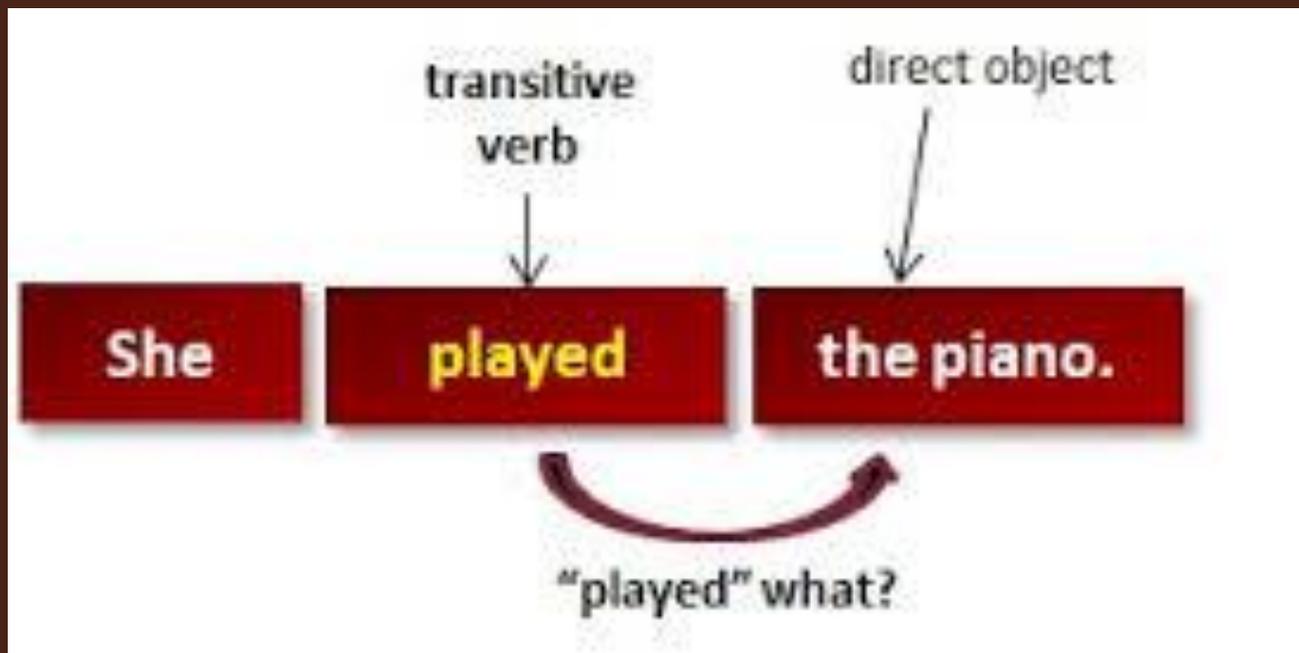
- These words tell what the subject of the sentence is doing. It can be a physical or mental action.
- Action verbs can be **transitive** or **intransitive**.



Transitive verbs

- This is an action verb that is followed by a word or words that answer what? or whom? (also known as a direct object)
- Think of a train that transports cargo. The subject is the conductor and the transitive verb is the engine “transporting” the direct object.





We bought Candy at the store.

I shared my candy with my brother.

**The dog stole the rest of our
candy.**

The dog was in trouble.

Intransitive verbs

- This is an action verb that is **NOT** followed by a word or words that answer what? or whom?
- Some verbs, such as *arrive*, *go*, *lie*, *sneeze*, *sit*, and *die*, are always intransitive; it is impossible for a direct object to follow.



INTRANSITIVE VERB

Rise early with the lark.

TRANSITIVE VERB

Raise your hands.

transitive verbs

The pilot flies **the plane** very well.

The boys play **football** on weekends.

My mom runs **her own company**.

We walk **the dog** every evening.

intransitive verbs

Eagles fly high in the sky.

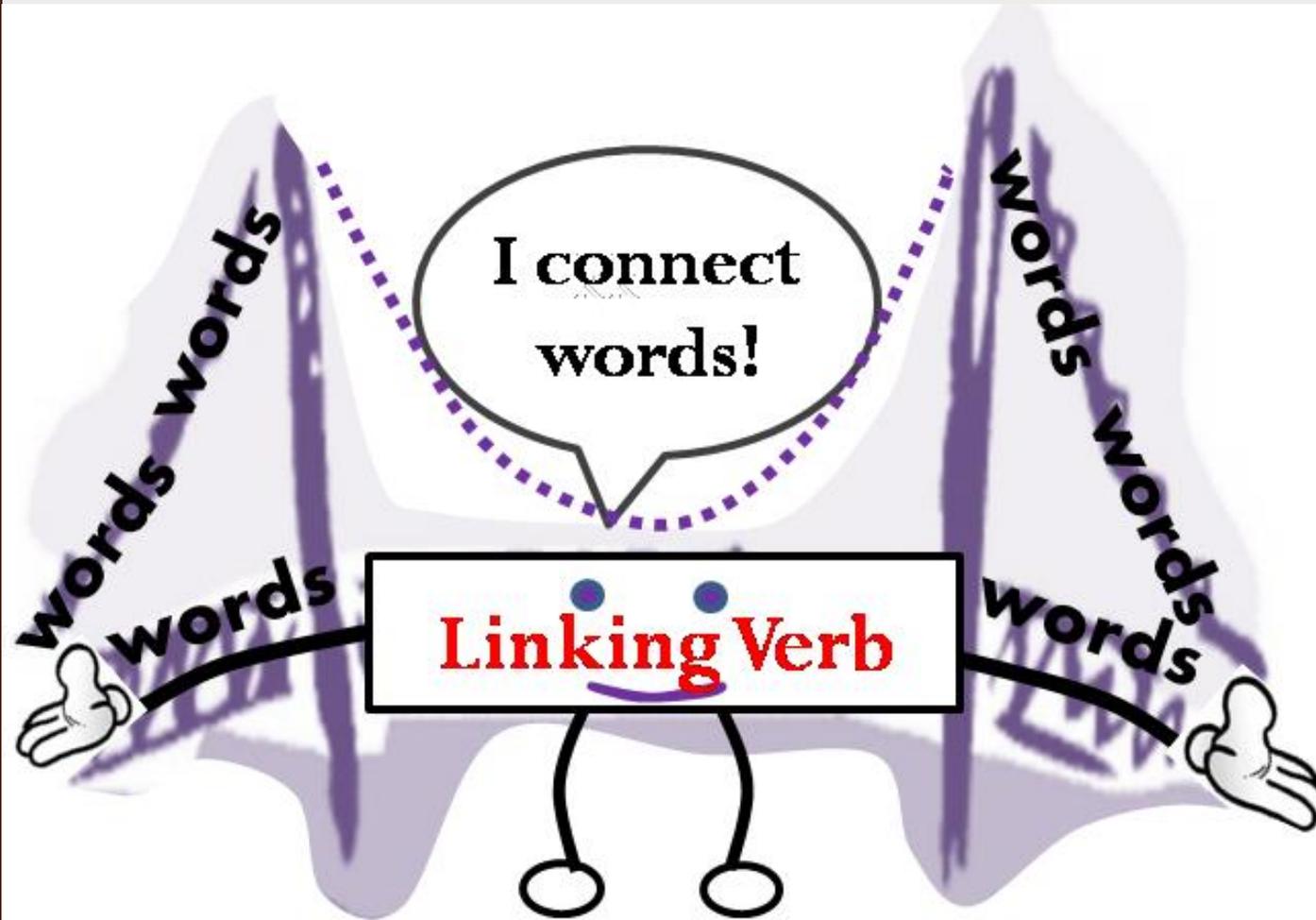
The boys play in the yard on weekends.

My mom runs in the park for fun.

We walk on the beach every evening.

Linking Verbs

They **link**, or join, the subject of the sentence with a word that identifies or describes the subject.



The sky looked grey.

subject

linking verb

subjective complement

Joey is a comedian.

subject

linking verb

subjective complement

Examples

- The apple looks rotten.

“Looks” links the subject (apple) to the adjective (rotten): rotten = apple

- John is one of the great scientists in our area.

“Is” links the subject (John) to the adjective (one): John = one

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

- Example: The ice cream tastes delicious.
Substitute a form of be: The ice cream is delicious.
 - Example: She tasted the ice cream.
Substitute a form of be: She is the ice cream.
- *{Forms of be and seem are always linking verbs.}

Let's Practice- on a sheet of paper write the verb from each sentence and label it.

1. The pitcher threw the ball.
2. The robin perched on a lower branch.
3. Seagulls flew lazily in the light breeze.
4. The New Brunswick flag cost five dollars.
5. He dreamed about his recent accident.
6. Melissa always walks to work in the morning.
7. She often rode the bus home at night.
8. His parents thought about him every day.
9. The Christmas tree looked beautiful.
10. The lions slept in the sun for hours.

Let's Practice- on a sheet of paper write the verb from each sentence and label it.

1. The pitcher **threw** the ball. (Action/transitive)
2. The robin **perched** on a lower branch. (Action/INtransitive)
3. Seagulls **flew** lazily in the light breeze. (Action/INtransitive)
4. The New Brunswick flag **costs** five dollars. (Action/transitive)
5. He **dreamed** about his recent accident. (Action/INtransitive)
6. The flowers **smell** good. (Linking)
7. She often **rode** the bus home at night. (Action/transitive)
8. His parents **thought** about him every day. (Action/INtransitive)
9. The Christmas tree **looked** beautiful. (Linking)
10. The lions **slept** in the sun for hours. (Action/INtransitive)

Helping Verbs & Verb Phrases

Helping verbs such as will, shall, may, might, can, could, must, ought to, should, would, used to, need are used in conjunction with main verbs to express shades of time and mood. The combination of **helping verbs** with main verbs creates what are called **verb phrases**. They do NOT make sense alone.



Examples

Helping verbs + main verbs = verb phrases. The main verb is always the last verb in the phrase.

•***to be***: am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been

These are used in progressive tenses and passive voice verbs.

I am writing this sentence.

This sentence was written.

•***to have***: have, has, had

These are used in perfect tenses.

I have read many, many books.

•***to do***: do, does, did, done

These are emphatic verbs. They don't change tense. They just emphasize the main verb.

I do know your uncle.

•**conditionals**: could, should, would, can, shall, will, may, might, must

These express possibility, obligation, permission, ability, necessity, and intention.

I could play basketball.

watch out for questions and adverbs!

Challenge 1: The subject of the question is often between the helping verb and the main verb. If you keep all the words and rearrange the sentence to a declarative sentence, it may be easier to find the verb phrase.

- Are you coming to my party?
You are coming to my party.

Challenge 2: Sometimes the verb phrase can be interrupted by an adverb. Be careful not to include the adverb in the verb phrase.

- He did not like the lunch.
- He didn't like the lunch. (didn't is a contraction for did not)

Let's Practice

1. Jessica is taking John to the airport.
2. If he doesn't arrive on time, he'll have to take a later flight.
3. Unfortunately, our dinner has been eaten by the dog.
4. I have purchased a new pair of shoes to replace the ones that I lost.
5. We hope you don't have an accident on your way to school.
6. She was baking a pie for dessert.
7. Dad has been working hard all day.
8. The bed was made as soon as I got up.
9. Sarah doesn't ski or skate.
10. Did Matthew bring coffee?

Let's Practice

1. Jessica **is taking** John to the airport.
2. If he **doesn't arrive** on time, he'll have to take a later flight.
3. Unfortunately, our dinner **has been eaten** by the dog.
4. I **have purchased** a new pair of shoes to replace the ones that I lost.
5. We hope you **don't have** an accident on your way to school.
6. She **was baking** a pie for dessert.
7. Dad **has been working** hard all day.
8. The bed **was made** as soon as I got up.
9. Sarah **doesn't ski** or **skate**.
10. **Did** Matthew **bring** coffee?