

## Understanding Verbs

### Exploring Verbs

- There are three items that work together to form a complete sentence. They are:
  1. Subjects
  2. Verbs
  3. Complete Thought
- Without the subject or verb, there cannot be a complete thought.
- In this lesson, you will learn about **verbs**.

### What is a Verb?

- A verb tells you something about the subject of a sentence.
- It expresses actions or states of being.
- Action verbs show actions of the subject.
- Other verbs are called linking verbs, relating what the subject is or feels, it states of being.
- True linking verbs are any form of the verb *be*, (*be, being, is, are, etc.*) as well as the words *become* and *seem*, and they express a state of being. They link up the subject and the verb, but they never express action.

### For example:

- **Action Verbs:**  
run, laugh, slept, played, throwing, flying, has broken, had seen, will test
- **Linking Verbs:**  
is, am, were, was, are, be, being, been, become, seem

**\*TIP\*** Sometimes linking verbs function differently, becoming helping verbs. Helping verbs include: *may, might, must, will, can, shall, should, could, and would* (“be” words can be helping verbs: *be, being, been, am, are, is, was, were*).

### As an example:

The sentence, *Sally is a cowgirl*, shows how “*is*” can clearly be a linking verb. But if we say, *Sally is running*, we can see that the “*is*” verb is a helping verb, assisting the description of Sally running in the present moment.

## Understanding Verbs Questions

### Part 1 Directions:

Underline the action verbs in the following sentences. Some sentences contain more than one action verb.

1. The chubby toddler sipped juice from his juice cup and munched on a cookie.
2. A lovely Copacabana dancer wore fruit on top of her head.
3. On the first day of May, pick some flowers for your mother.
4. At sunset the huge, orange sun sank into the ocean.
5. The greasy pan slipped from her hand and crashed onto the hard tile floor.
6. My little sister skipped across the lawn toward the sprinklers.
7. On the last play, the quarterback caught a pass for a touchdown.
8. So many students wanted that computer class, but it filled up really early.
9. I've always preferred a classic movie like, *The Wizard of Oz*, to a newer one.
10. During Christmas break, we always visit Grandma for a week.
11. The Constitution of the United States guarantees certain unalienable rights.
12. Swashbuckling pirates commandeer ships and steal guns and treasure in this high seas adventure book.
13. Never talk loudly in the library and never run in the halls.
14. His dad bought him a new baseball glove for the upcoming season.
15. She laced her new pink ballet shoes before practice.
16. Wow, it rained cats and dogs today!

## Understanding Verbs Questions (cont'd)

### **Part 2 Directions:**

Underline the linking verbs in these sentences.

1. Earth is the third planet from the sun.
2. Siamese cats are slinky, intriguing felines.
3. The delicate crystal vase was a priceless heirloom.
4. I am incredibly curious about the answer to the riddle.
5. Popcorn was available at the theater's concession stand.
6. We were never more proud of you than we are at this moment.
7. The subject of the archeological dig was simply, dinosaur bones.
8. Everyone seems relieved right after a test.
9. Truly, I am sorry about his fate.

### **Part 3 Directions:**

Underline the helping verbs in these sentences.

1. Baby carriages are wheeled briskly through the park on autumn days.
2. Fortunately, my French class will take a trip to Paris in June.
3. This could be the answer for all of us.
4. The pastry chef has baked the most delicious éclair I have tasted.
5. Before you eat dessert, you must eat your vegetables.
6. During Christmas break, we will visit Grandma for a week.
7. Leonardo should be here any moment, with Michaelangelo and Raphael.
8. She might have been late without the wakeup call.
9. So many young talents will be auditioning in the contest.

## Understanding Verbs Answers

### Part 1

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