

A **verb** is a word that expresses action or a state of being. It tells what a subject does or is. A verb is the main word in the predicate of a sentence.

**Action Verb**

leap  
saw  
sing

**Being Verb**

is  
are  
was

1

**Underline the verb in each sentence. Write action or being on the line.**

- Blue jays are noisy birds. \_\_\_\_\_
- They bully the other birds at the bird feeder. \_\_\_\_\_
- A blue jay chases the other birds. \_\_\_\_\_
- It wants the food to itself. \_\_\_\_\_
- My cat stares through the window at the birds. \_\_\_\_\_

**An action verb tells what the subject does.**

Some action verbs tell about actions that can be seen or heard.

We **trod** along the wooded path. We **sang** a lively hiking song.

Some action verbs tell about actions that cannot be seen or heard.

Mr. Keller **thinks** about resting. He **wants** a snack.

2

**Write the action verb in each sentence.**

- The nature Club hikes in the woods. \_\_\_\_\_
- Our leaders teach us about plants and animals. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ms. Curtis points to some poison ivy. \_\_\_\_\_
- Avoid those shiny green leaves! \_\_\_\_\_
- Ms. Curtis leads us away from the dangerous plants. \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose an action verb from the word box below to complete each sentence. Circle *yes* if the action verb can be seen or heard or *no* if it cannot be seen or heard.**

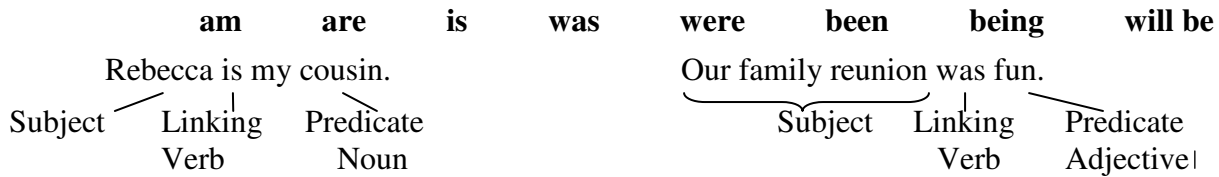
flowed    hope    will explore    waded    are planning

- Yesterday we \_\_\_\_\_ in a creek in the woods.
- The water \_\_\_\_\_ over our toes and ankles.

8. We \_\_\_\_\_ another hike.
9. The club \_\_\_\_\_ another trail with Mr. Krebs and Ms. Curtis.
10. We all \_\_\_\_\_ for a sunny day.

3

**A linking verb links the subject to a predicate noun or a predicate adjective.**



**Circle the linking verb in each sentence. Write the predicate noun on the line.**

1. Franklin is our hometown. \_\_\_\_\_
2. My mother's sisters are my aunts. \_\_\_\_\_
3. This family reunion is an important event. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Our great-grandparents were farmers. \_\_\_\_\_
5. This land was once their farm. \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle the linking verb in each sentence. Write the predicate adjective on the line.**

6. This potato salad is quite delicious. \_\_\_\_\_
7. That spinach salad is bright green! \_\_\_\_\_
8. Some family stories are funny. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Some stories are inspirational. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Our great-grandparents were strong. \_\_\_\_\_

**A linking verb connects the subject of a sentence to a predicate noun or a predicate adjective. The most common linking verb is *to be*. Other linking verbs include *appear, become, feel, look, seem, smell, sound, and taste*.**

The blooming violets **smell** sweet.

The bird's song **sounds** lovely.

4

**Circle the linking verb and underline the predicate adjective.**

1. The buds on the trees look swollen.
2. The trees seem ready for spring.
3. That patch of skink cabbage smells bad!
4. The violet's petals feel soft.
5. Some special violets dripped in sugar taste good.

**A verb's tense tells when the action takes place. It tells whether the action is happening in the present, happen in the past, or will happen in the future.**

**Present Tense**  
**Past Tense**  
**Future Tense**

The kids **ride** their bikes after school.

Yesterday Gavin **rode** down that hill at top speed.

He **will ride** in a race tomorrow.

5

**Decide whether the action is happening in the present, has happened in the past, or will happen in the future. Underline the verb and circle *present, past, or future*.**

- |  |         |      |        |
|--|---------|------|--------|
| 1. Hanna washes her bike with the garden hose. | present | past | future |
| 2. Her friends will meet her on the corner.    | present | past | future |
| 3. Taylor received a new bike last week.       | present | past | future |
| 4. Hannah's clean bike gleams like new.        | present | past | future |
| 5. The friends will coast down the hill.       | present | past | future |
| 6. Jenny waited for the others at the bottom.  | present | past | future |
| 7. Her bike was the fastest.                   | present | past | future |

**The present tense tells that the action or state of being is happening now or happens regularly.**

**Is Happening Now  
Happens Regularly**

My favorite television show **is** on.  
The main character **gets** into trouble each week.

**6**

**Read each sentence. Underline the present tense verb. Write *now* and *regularly*.**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. I was my favorite show on Wednesday evenings.              | _____ |
| 2. On those nights, my family sits on the couch together.     | _____ |
| 3. We pause for a commercial.                                 | _____ |
| 4. During the commercial, my dad gets a snack in the kitchen. | _____ |
| 5. Sometimes, we eat ice cream during the show.               | _____ |
| 6. I enjoy the jokes and funny situations on the show.        | _____ |
| 7. In every episode, the dad in the show gets the last word.  | _____ |

**A past tense verb tells that an action or state of being took place in the past and is over.**

My family **traveled** to Germany last summer.

We **went** on a boat down a river.

The guide **pointed** to old castles on the shore.

**7**

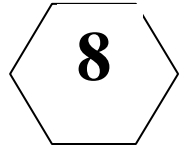
**Circle the past tense verb in each pair of sentences.**

- Here are the pictures of our trip to Europe. We boarded this enormous plane.
- My parents gave me this camera before the trip. I like taking pictures.
- This picture shows a town square in Germany. We ate lunch in that town.
- I tried a dish of sauerkraut. You are wrinkling your nose.
- I liked the sauerkraut! I want to have it again soon.

**The past tense of most verbs is formed by adding *ed* to the verb. Verbs that follow this rule called regular verbs. For some regular verbs, you must make spelling changes before adding the *ed* ending.**

When a regular verb ends with one vowel and one consonant, double the final consonant before adding **ed**.

<b>Present</b>	stop	rub	plan
<b>Past</b>	stopped	rubbed	planned



When a regular verb ends in a silent **e**, drop that e before adding **ed**.

<b>Present</b>	snore	type	save
<b>Past</b>	snored	typed	saved

When a regular verb ends in a consonant followed by a **y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **ed**.

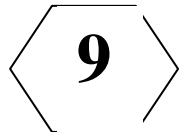
<b>Present</b>	hurry	marry	study
<b>Past</b>	hurried	married	studied

**Write the past tense of each regular verb.**

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. carry _____ | 6. sigh _____  |
| 2. play _____  | 7. bake _____  |
| 3. push _____  | 8. turn _____  |
| 4. help _____  | 9. argue _____ |
| 5. stay _____  | 10. hope _____ |

**Irregular verbs have special past tense forms.**

<b>Present Tense</b>	I ride horses, Ginny has horses in her stable.
<b>Past Tense</b>	I rode a horse at camp. The camp had three horses for the campers.



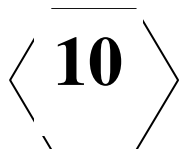
**Fill in the blank with the past tense of the irregular verb in parentheses ( ).**

- We \_\_\_\_\_ a cookout at summer camp. (have)
- The camp counselors \_\_\_\_\_ a fire. (build)
- They \_\_\_\_\_ small dry sticks to start the fire. (choose)
- Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ around the fire. (sit)
- Counselor Adam \_\_\_\_\_ us to start cooking our hot dogs. (tell)

**Irregular verbs have special past tense forms. There are no rules for forming the past tense of those irregular verbs.**

**Present Tense**  
 I usually **wake** in the morning at 7 o'clock.  
 Sunday **is** a quiet day at our house.  
 I **go** downstairs for breakfast in the morning.

**Past Tense**  
 On Sunday, I **woke** at 9 o'clock.  
 Last Sunday **was** an exception.  
 We **went** to the pancake house.



Fill in the blank with the past of the irregular verb in parentheses ( ).

1. The waiter \_\_\_\_\_ a pitcher of orange juice to our table. (bring)
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ my order with a bowl of oatmeal. (begin)
3. Dad \_\_\_\_\_ into a slice of cantaloupe. (bite)
4. Mom \_\_\_\_\_ a spoon into her grapefruit. (stick)
5. The juice \_\_\_\_\_ my brother in the eye. (hit)

A **verb phrase** is made up of **helping verb** and a **main verb**.

<b>am</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>are</b>	<b>was</b>
<b>were</b>	<b>have</b>	<b>has</b>	<b>can</b>
<b>should</b>	<b>could</b>	<b>must</b>	<b>will</b>

11

<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Helping Verb</u>	<u>Main Verb</u>
Shannon will make the team.	will	make
Our team should practice more often.	should	practice

Write the helping verb and the main verb in the correct column. If there is no helping verb in a sentence, put and X in that column.

	<u>Helping Verb</u>	<u>Main Verb</u>
1. Our team has built a new playing field.	_____	_____
2. The field has lights for night games.	_____	_____
3. The football team can play on Friday nights now.	_____	_____
4. You can walk to the field from our house.	_____	_____
5. My softball team has played on the new field.	_____	_____

A verb in the **future tense** tells what is going to happen. To form the future tense of a main verb, use the helping verb *will*.

We **will go** on vacation to Cape Cod.

12

Rewrite each sentence in the future tense and underline the future tense verb.

1. We drive to Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. My family stays at an old cottage.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I sleep in a tiny room in an old-fashioned bed.

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4. Mom runs on the beach in the morning.

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5. She brings pretty seashells back to the cottage.

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**The present progressive tense of a verb shows that an action is in progress. The action is happening now and will continue for a period of time.**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Helping Verb</u>	<u>Main Verb</u> <u>+ ing</u>
Lee	is	<b>shopping</b> for a new coat.
I	am	<b>shopping</b> for new shoes.

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**Underline the present progressive verb in each sentence.**

1. Shoppers are waiting for the store to open.
2. The manager is unlocking the door.
3. Everyone is hoping for a bargain.
4. I am searching for shoes for the party.
5. Chris is unfolding a green sweater.
6. I am paying for these shoes.

**The tense of the verb indicates when the action happens.**

**Present Tense:** is happening now or happens regularly.

I **call** my friend Jenny almost every day.

**Present Progressive Tense:** is happening now and continuing for a period of time.

The phone **is ringing**.

**Past Tense:** has happened before now and is over.

Jenny **left** a message for me yesterday.

**Future Tense:** will happen sometime after now.

I **will call** her back later.

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Fill in the blank with the verb in the correct tense for the sentence. Write the name of the tense.

1. Jenny always \_\_\_\_\_ me after school. (call) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Yesterday we \_\_\_\_\_ about a school assignment. (talk) \_\_\_\_\_
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ together on an ongoing project. (work) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Our class \_\_\_\_\_ in the science fair. (participate) \_\_\_\_\_
5. My friend Jenny \_\_\_\_\_ a career as a doctor. (want) \_\_\_\_\_

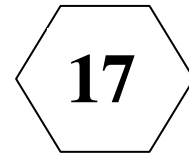


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|--|--------|---------|
| 6. The yellowed pages of a cookbook are turned by Alice. | active | passive |
| 7. A typewriter is examined by Dorothy.                  | active | passive |
| 8. She taps lightly on the keys.                         | active | passive |

**Verbs may be in the active or passive voice. Using the active voice in your writing makes it more interesting.**

**A verb is in the active voice if the subject does the action.**

The team **wears** red uniforms for home games.  
 Delia **wrote** a letter to me about her decision.



**A verb is in the passive voice if the subject does not do the action. A verb in the passive voice uses a form of the verb *to be* (*am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been*).**

Red shirts **are worn** by the team for home games.  
 A letter **was written** to me by Delia about her decision.

**Write a paragraph of at least four sentences about your family. Use the active voice.**

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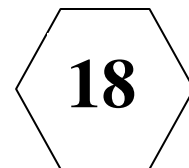


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**A subject and a verb must agree in number. A singular subject requires a singular verb, and a plural subject requires a plural verb.**

**Incorrect** A cat show judge **hold** a squirming kitten.  
 The girls **holds** ribbons in their hands.

**Correct** A cat show judge **holds** a squirming kitten.  
 The girls **hold** ribbons in their hands.



**Circle the correct form of the verb. Write singular or plural after the sentence.**

1. Cat shows attracts/attract many pet owners. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I enters/enter my cat in the house pet category. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Special breeds competes/compete in a different category. \_\_\_\_\_



4. A judge gently displays/display a cat's bushy tail. \_\_\_\_\_

5. My cat yawns/yawn as she waits her turn. \_\_\_\_\_

**Write the correct present tense form of the verb in parentheses ( ).**

6. The Siamese cat \_\_\_\_\_ in her cage. (stretch)

7. The judge \_\_\_\_\_ the cat with a feather toy. (tempt)

8. The toy \_\_\_\_\_ the cat's alertness. (shed)

9. Judges \_\_\_\_\_ ribbons to the cats' cages. (attach)

**Every verb must agree in number with its subject.**

A subject with two parts joined by and is called a compound subject. A compound subject takes a plural verb.

Amy and Aaron **study** together.

When the verb includes a main verb and a helping verb, the helping verb must agree in number with the subject.

Aaron **is studying** history. Amy and Aaron **are studying** history.

**Rewrite each sentence, correcting the mistake in subject-verb agreement.**

1. Nicholas and Alexandra was rulers of Russia.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Aaron are writing a report on Russia.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. He and Amy looks for books at the library.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Amy are looking for a book about Tibet.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Tibet and China is two countries Amy would like to visit.

\_\_\_\_\_