Writing: Verbs

Verbs are the action words in a sentence. There are three kinds of verbs: action verbs, linking verbs, and helping verbs.

An action verb tells the action of a sentence.

Examples: run, hop, skip, sleep, jump, talk, snore
Michael ran to the store. Ran is the action verb.

A linking verb joins the subject and predicate of a sentence.

Examples: am, is, are, was, were
Michael was at the store. Was is the linking verb.

A helping verb is used with an action verb to “help” the action of the sentence.

Examples: am, is, are, was, were
Matthew was helping Michael. Was helps the action verb helping.

Directions: Read the following sentences. Underline the verbs. Above each, write A for action verb, L for linking verb, and H for helping verb. The first one has been done for you.

A
1. Amy jumps rope.
2. Paul was jumping rope, too.
3. They were working on their homework.
4. The math problem requires a lot of thinking.
5. Addition problems are fun to do.
6. The baby sleeps in the afternoon.
7. Grandma is napping also.
8. Sam is going to bed.
9. Diego paints a lovely picture of the sea.
10. The colors in the picture are soft and pale.
# Writing: Verb Tense

Not only do verbs tell the action of a sentence, but they also tell when the action takes place. This is called the **verb tense**. There are three verb tenses: past, present, and future tense.

**Present-tense verbs** tell what is happening now.

**Example:** Jane **spells** words with long vowel sounds.

**Past-tense verbs** tell about action that has already happened. Past-tense verbs are usually formed by adding **ed** to the verb.

**Example:** stay — stayed
Eli **stayed** home yesterday.

Past-tense verbs can also be made by adding the helping verbs **was** or **were** before the verb and adding **ing** to the verb.

**Example:** talk — was talking
Valentina **was talking** to her mom.

**Future-tense verbs** tell what will happen in the future. Future-tense verbs are made by putting the word **will** before the verb.

**Example:** paint — will paint
Olivia and Ava **will paint** the house.

**Directions:** Read the following verbs. Write whether the verb tense is past, present, or future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>watches</td>
<td>present</td>
<td>8. writes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>wanted</td>
<td></td>
<td>9. vaulted</td>
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<tr>
<td>will eat</td>
<td></td>
<td>10. were sleeping</td>
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<tr>
<td>was squawking</td>
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<td>11. will sing</td>
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<td>yawns</td>
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<td>12. is speaking</td>
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<td>crawled</td>
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<td>13. will cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>will hunt</td>
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<td>14. likes</td>
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</tbody>
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Combining Sentences

Some simple sentences can be easily combined into one sentence.

**Examples:**

**Simple sentences:** The bird sang. The bird was tiny. The bird was in the tree.

**Combined sentence:** The tiny bird sang in the tree.

**Directions:** Combine each set of simple sentences into one sentence. The first one has been done for you.

1. The big girls laughed. They were friendly. They helped the little girls.

   The big, friendly girls laughed and helped the little girls.

2. The dog was hungry. The dog whimpered. The dog looked at its bowl.

3. Be quiet now. I want you to listen. You listen to my joke!

4. I lost my pencil. My pencil was stubby. I lost it on the bus.

5. I see my mother. My mother is walking. My mother is walking down the street.

6. Do you like scrambled eggs? Do you like cheddar cheese? Do you like mushrooms?

7. Tell me you’ll do it! Tell me you will! Tell me right now!
Writing: Using Fewer Words

Writing can be more interesting when fewer words are used. Combining sentences is easy when the subjects are the same. Notice how the comma is used.

Example: Riley woke up. Riley ate breakfast. Riley brushed her teeth.
Riley woke up, ate breakfast, and brushed her teeth.

Combining sentences with more than one subject is a little more complicated. Notice how commas are used to "set off" information.

Examples: Hannah went to the store. Hannah is Riley’s sister.
Hannah went to the store with Riley, her sister.
Eddie likes to play with cars. Eddie is my younger brother.
Eddie, my younger brother, likes to play with cars.

Directions: Write each pair of sentences as one sentence.

1. Eduardo played soccer after school. He played with his best friend, Tom.

2. Spot likes to chase cats. Spot is my dog.

3. Sierra and Jada both love ice skating. Jada is Sierra’s cousin.

4. Jayna is my cousin. Jayna helped me move into my new apartment.

5. Romeo is a big tomcat. Romeo loves to hunt mice.