

## Grammar

### Verbs

#### Verb:

a word that expresses action or otherwise helps to make a statement

#### Action Verbs:

An action verb is a verb that expresses mental or physical action

*Example: The wolves howled at night.*

*She ran to the store.*

*Shane believes in Santa Claus.*

#### Linking Verbs:

A linking verb is a verb that does not show action but connects the subject with a word in the predicate (the part of a sentence that says something about the subject of the sentence). The word that follows the linking verb fills out or completes the meaning of the verb and refers to the subject of the verb. The most common *linking verb* is **be**. Below are some forms of the verb **be**:

<i>am</i>	<i>has been</i>	<i>may be</i>
<i>is</i>	<i>have been</i>	<i>might be</i>
<i>are</i>	<i>had been</i>	<i>can be</i>
<i>was</i>	<i>will be</i>	<i>should be</i>
<i>were</i>	<i>shall be</i>	<i>would have been</i>

In addition to the forms of **be**, the following verbs are also commonly used as linking verbs:

<i>appear</i>	<i>grow</i>	<i>seem</i>	<i>stay</i>
<i>become</i>	<i>look</i>	<i>smell</i>	<i>taste</i>
<i>feel</i>	<i>remain</i>	<i>sound</i>	

Notice how the linking verbs in the following sentences *link* the subject with a word in the predicate:

**EXAMPLE:** *The actor appeared tired during the play.* (The verb *appeared* connects actor and tired.)

*Sara stayed calm in the midst of the clamor.* (The verb *stayed* links Sara and calm.)

#### Action versus Linking Verbs:

Some verbs may be either action or linking verbs, depending on how they are used. The meaning of the sentence tells you which kind of verb is being used.

**ACTION:** *Amy looked through the telescope.*

**LINKING:** *Amy looked pale.*

**ACTION:** *We all felt the rough bark of the tree.*

**LINKING:** *We all felt excited before the first dance of the year.*

## Helping Verbs:

Some verbs consist of more than one word. If it consists of more than one word, it is called a *verb phrase*. A verb phrase contains one *main verb* and one or more *helping verbs*. In the following sentences, the verb phrases are underlined and the **helping verbs** are in boldfaced type:

EXAMPLES Many Europeans **can speak** a second language.  
Kansas **has been named** the Sunflower State.  
Bryan **will vote** in the next election.\

Here is a list of words commonly used as helping verbs. The first seven words are all forms of the verb *be*.

am	be	had	might	shall
is	been	do	must	should
are	has	does	can	will
was	have	may	could	would
were	did			

Sometimes the verb phrase is interrupted by another part of speech. One common interrupter is the word *not*. In a question, the verb phrase is often interrupted by the subject. Note the separation of the verbs in the following verb phrases:

EXAMPLES Mrs. Farrell **does** not **have** a new desk.  
Our school **has** always **held** student council elections.  
**Did** you **watch** the news this morning?  
**Can** you **help** us?