

- The **verb** is the main word in the predicate. If the verb tells an action that the subject is doing, it is called an **action verb**.
EXAMPLES: Children **play** in the park. The squirrel **ran up** the tree.

A. Underline the action verb in each sentence.

1. Rex jumped at Tiger.
2. Tiger leaped for the tree.
3. Rex snapped back at the end of his rope.
4. Tiger quickly spun around.
5. Tiger arched her back.
6. Rex pulled against his rope.
7. Tiger danced sideways.
8. Rex howled loudly.
9. Then Tiger licked a furry paw.
10. She yawned slowly.
11. Rex chewed at the old rope.
12. He snarled at the cat.
13. Tiger teased Rex even more.
14. Rex pulled against the rope again.
15. Suddenly, it snapped.
16. Tiger shot into the air.
17. Rex bounded across the yard.
18. Tiger scrambled up the tree just in time.

B. Complete each sentence by adding a predicate with an action verb to each subject.

1. The captain of the team _____.
2. The coach _____.
3. All of the team members _____.
4. The fans _____.
5. The scorekeeper _____.
6. Everyone _____.

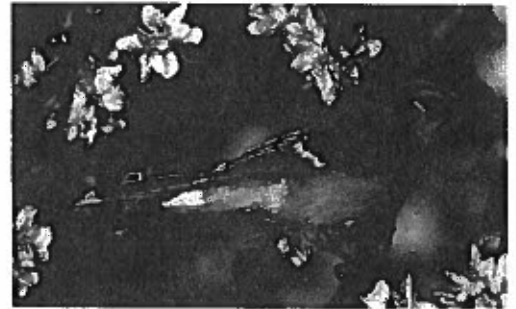
- A **linking verb** does not show action. Instead, it links the subject to a word that either describes the subject or gives the subject another name. If a verb can be replaced by one of the verbs of being (am, is, are, was, were), then it is a linking verb.

EXAMPLES: Football is exciting. (Exciting describes football.)
 They were a tired group. (Group is another name for They.)
 Yoko grew tired. (Grew can be replaced by is without changing the sentence.)

A. Complete each sentence with a different linking verb from the box.

are	feel	is	seem	sound
become	grow	look	smells	taste

1. Spring _____ a wonderful time of year.
2. The days _____ warm.
3. The air _____ fresh.
4. The flowers _____ pretty.
5. The evenings _____ lighter.
6. Spring vegetables _____ fresh.
7. The birds _____ cheerful.
8. We _____ more active.



B. Write L in front of each sentence that has a linking verb.

- _____ 1. The day seemed dreary.
- _____ 2. We decided to stay inside.
- _____ 3. It was too cold and rainy outdoors.
- _____ 4. Jenny started a roaring fire.
- _____ 5. We were warm and cozy.
- _____ 6. We felt comfortable.

■ A **helping verb** is sometimes used to help the main verb of a sentence. Helping verbs are often forms of the verb **to be**—**am, is, are, was, were**. The verbs **has, have, and had** are also used as helping verbs. EXAMPLES: Jerry **has** gone to the store. I **am** watching for the bus.

■ **Circle the helping verb and underline the main verb in each sentence.**

1. For a long time, we had wanted to give Sherry a surprise party.
2. We had planned the party in the park the day before her birthday.
3. She has gone to the park almost every day.
4. We were waiting for her there.
5. Sherry was raking her yard.
6. We were looking around the park for her.
7. We couldn't find her.
8. We were forced to make other plans.
9. So Sherry was given her surprise party on her birthday.
10. Juana is going to the zoo today.
11. She has gone there once before.
12. Jack had told her to see the monkeys.
13. She was going last week.
14. She had planned a picnic.
15. I am going to the zoo with her.
16. I have seen the zoo before.
17. We are taking the bus.
18. Jack is meeting us there.
19. He is riding his bike.
20. We are looking forward to our zoo visit.

- The **tense** of a verb tells the time expressed by the verb. There are three tenses—present, past, and future.
- **Present tense** tells about what is happening now.
EXAMPLE: I **am walking** my dog. I **walk** my dog.
- **Past tense** tells about something that happened before.
EXAMPLE: I **walked** my dog yesterday.
- **Future tense** tells about something that will happen.
EXAMPLE: I **will walk** my dog tonight.

A. Write present, past, or future to tell the tense of each underlined verb.

- _____ 1. Jules Verne wrote about going to the moon.
- _____ 2. Spaceships were still in the future.
- _____ 3. Now we can fly to the moon.
- _____ 4. A space shuttle will lift off tomorrow.
- _____ 5. It is stationed in Florida.
- _____ 6. The shuttle helped us explore space.
- _____ 7. It will help us settle in space.
- _____ 8. The shuttle is taking off now.
- _____ 9. It will return in a week.
- _____ 10. I will go to watch it land.
- _____ 11. It will be a sight to remember.

B. Complete each sentence by writing a verb in the tense shown in parentheses.

- (past) 1. Joy _____ in the garden.
- (present) 2. She _____ gardening.
- (future) 3. The garden _____ many vegetables.
- (present) 4. Joy _____ the garden to be nice.
- (future) 5. She _____ flowers next week.
- (past) 6. She _____ the garden last week.

- The past tense of a **regular verb** is usually formed by adding **-ed**.
EXAMPLE: jump—jumped
- If the word ends with a single consonant that has one vowel before it, double the final consonant and add **-ed**.
EXAMPLE: skip—skipped
- If the word ends with a silent **e**, drop the **e** and add **-ed**.
EXAMPLE: bake—baked
- If the root word ends in **y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **-ed**.
EXAMPLE: worry—worried

A. Write the past tense of each verb to complete each sentence.

1. Ms. Willis (look) _____ out the window.
2. She (gasp) _____ at what she saw.
3. A hot-air balloon (settle) _____ onto her lawn.
4. Two men (step) _____ from the balloon.
5. Ms. Willis (hurry) _____ across the yard.
6. The balloon's basket (crush) _____ her flower bed.
7. One man (scratch) _____ his head in wonder.
8. He said they were (head) _____ for the fairgrounds.
9. The wind had (change) _____.
10. "We (drop) _____ in here instead," he said.

B. Rewrite each phrase in the past tense.

1. sail the boat

2. steer a straight course

3. carry the sail

4. enjoy the fresh air and sunshine

- Do not add **-ed** to form the past tense of **irregular verbs**.

Change the spelling in a different way.

EXAMPLES:

Present	Past	Present	Past	Present	Past
begin	began	give	gave	say	said
break	broke	go	went	see	saw
choose	chose	grow	grew	sit	sat
come	came	know	knew	take	took
fall	fell	leave	left	throw	threw
fly	flew	run	ran	write	wrote

- Complete each sentence by writing the past tense of the verb in parentheses.

- Monday I (go) _____ to a singing tryout.
- I got up and (leave) _____ early.
- I (take) _____ the address but couldn't find the building.
- Finally, I (know) _____ I needed to ask for directions.
- I (grow) _____ worried that I would miss my turn.
- Then I (see) _____ a sign on a building.
- It (give) _____ a list of the companies in the building.
- I (sit) _____ on a bench for a few minutes to calm down.
- I (come) _____ to the right place after all.
- Then I (fly) _____ upstairs to the office.
- A man at the front desk frowned and (say) _____ I was late.
- He (begin) _____ by handing me a form.
- I (write) _____ my name, address, and phone number.
- Then the pencil lead (break) _____.
- He took it from me and (throw) _____ it away.
- I (choose) _____ another one from his desk.
- On the way back to my chair, I slipped and (fall) _____.
- The man (run) _____ to help me.

- The **subject** and **verb** of a sentence must agree in number.
- A **singular** subject must have a singular verb.
- A **plural** subject must have a plural verb.
- **You** and **I** must have a plural verb.
EXAMPLES: Mike **hits**. They **hit**. I **hit**. You **hit**.
- The singular form of a verb usually ends in **-s** or **-es**. Add **-es** to verbs that end in **-s**, **-x**, **-z**, **-sh**, and **-ch**.
EXAMPLES: Juan **watches** the game. Amy **waxes** the car.

- **Circle the verb that agrees with the subject of each sentence.**
Write singular or plural to show the number of the subject and verb.

1. Chickens (eat, eats) grain. plural
2. A chicken (lives, live) on the ground. _____
3. They (flies, fly) very little. _____
4. A farmer (feeds, feed) the chickens every day. _____
5. Chickens (scratches, scratch) the ground for food. _____
6. Forest fires (causes, cause) damage every year. _____
7. A forest fire (destroys, destroy) large areas. _____
8. People (fights, fight) a fire with water and chemicals. _____
9. A firebreak (slows, slow) down a fire. _____
10. A river (acts, act) as a firebreak. _____
11. Airplanes (drops, drop) water on forest fires. _____
12. A firefighter always (watches, watch) for danger. _____
13. High winds (spreads, spread) forest fires. _____
14. A forest fire (kills, kill) many trees. _____
15. Many animals (loses, lose) their homes. _____
16. A forest (need, needs) many seasons to recover. _____
17. Responsible people (helps, help) prevent forest fires. _____

- A **linking verb** is either singular or plural. The linking verb must match the subject of the sentence in number.
EXAMPLES: Singular—The movie **is** shown twice daily.
Plural—Both movies **are** shown twice daily.
- A linking verb can be in the present tense or past tense.
EXAMPLES: Present tense—The movie **is** shown twice daily.
Past tense—Both movies **were** shown twice daily.
- Use there is or there was with one person, place, or thing.
- Use there are or there were with more than one.
EXAMPLES: There is a movie tonight. There are many movies showing at that theater.

A. Write am, is, are, was, or were to complete each sentence.

1. My cat was in the garden one day.
2. I _____ sure I saw her wiggle her whiskers.
3. Her whiskers _____ shorter when she was a kitten.
4. A whisker _____ an organ of touch.
5. Whiskers _____ important to a cat.
6. My cat's whiskers _____ very long.
7. Her fur _____ very long, too.
8. I think my cat _____ beautiful!



B. Write There is, There are, There was, or There were to complete each sentence.

1. _____ many kinds of horses.
2. _____ no horses in America at one time.
3. _____ a horse called the pinto that looks painted.
4. _____ many pintos that are famous.
5. _____ pinto horse clubs that you can join today.
6. _____ a national pinto horse club meeting every year.
7. _____ people working to save the pinto horse.
8. _____ a good reason for this—they are beautiful animals.