An **Action Verb** expresses physical or mental action.

**Example:** Maria **waved** to Debbie. (Physical action)

**Example:** Maria **knows** Debbie. (Mental action)

**Tip:** When you identify action verbs, remember to include any helping verbs. Common helping verbs include: *is, can, does, have, might, was,* and *will.*

**Exercise:** Underline the **Action** verbs in each of the following sentences. Some sentences have more than one **Action** verb.

1. During thunderstorms, lightening bolts create gases that eventually fertilize the soil.
2. Suddenly, hundreds of grasshoppers leapt into the air.
3. Do mice dream?
4. On the longest day of summer in the Antarctic Circle, the sun never sets.
5. People have played with yo-yos for at least three thousand years.

**Linking Verbs**

A **Linking Verb** expresses a state of being by linking its subject to a word or word group that renames or describes the subject.

**Example:** The speaker *is* Sharon. (The verb *is* links the word *Sharon* to the subject *speaker.*)

**Example:** The trumpeter *sounded* excited. (The verb *sounds* links the word *excited* to the subject *trumpeter.*)

**Exercise:** Decide whether the underlined verb in each sentence below is an **Action** verb or a **Linking** verb. On the line provided, write **A** for **Action** verb or **L** for **Linking** verb.

1. Over the years, the lock **had become** rusty.
2. With great difficulty, Lisa **turned** the key in the lock.
3. Inside, the empty house **seemed** perfectly silent.
4. Long ago, the dusty air **had turned** stale.
5. She **could smell** fresh-cut hay in the breeze.
Helping Verbs

A verb phrase contains at least one main verb and one or more Helping Verbs. A Helping Verb helps the main verb express action or state of being.

The helping verbs include all forms of the verb be. The be verbs include am, is, are, was, were, be, being, and been.

Example: was laughing (The helping verb was helps the main verb laughing.)
           must remember (The helping verb must helps the main verb remember.)

Exercise: Draw a line under the verb phrase in each of the following sentences. Then, draw a second line under each Helping verb.

1. All of us have been happy with Paul’s meals and desserts.
2. Will Paul be making a pumpkin pie for dessert?
3. The pumpkin had become ripe for harvest a few days ago.
4. That pumpkin was grown in Margaret’s own backyard garden.
5. Pumpkins are known for their soft orange pulp and high water content.

Transitive or Intransitive Verbs

A Transitive Verb expresses action that is directed toward a person, place, or thing. The subject of a Transitive Verb performs the action of the verb. The object of the Transitive Verb receives the action of the verb.

Example: Hank drove the car. (Hank’s action, drove, is directed toward the car.)

An Intransitive Verb expresses action that is not directed toward an object.

Example: Hank drove slowly. (Hank’s action, drove, is not directed toward an object.)

Exercise: Decide whether the underlined verb in each sentence is a Transitive or Intransitive verb. Then, on the line provided, write T for Transitive verb or I for Intransitive verb.

_____ 1. Jason reads each day during study hall.
_____ 2. Did Suzy memorize her locker combination?
_____ 3. Steve always chatters quickly and good-naturedly.
_____ 4. You and he can go to the library on Saturday.
_____ 5. Usually, George reads a book for English class.