**Action and Linking Verbs**

A verb is a word that tells what someone or something is or does. **Action verbs** are words that show action. **Linking verbs**, such as *am, is, are, was,* and *were,* do not show action. They link a subject to a word or words in the predicate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Verb</th>
<th>Linking Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raisins grow on grapevines in the field.</td>
<td>Raisins are naturally sweet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions** Write the verb in each sentence. Write **A** after an action verb. Write **L** after a linking verb.

1. People ate raisins many years ago. **ate; A**
2. Farmers plant the vines in rows. **plant; A**
3. Raisins are withered and wrinkled. **are; L**
4. They dry naturally in the sun. **dry; A**
5. Raisin paste is in some meatballs. **is; L**

**Directions** Write a verb that can complete each sentence. Write **A** if you use an action verb and **L** if you use a linking verb. **Possible answers:**

6. They ___ raisins in boxes and bags. **put; A**
7. The early Greeks ___ raisins very much **liked; A**
8. Raisins ___ are delicious. **are; L**
9. Raisin seeds ___ a problem in the past. **were; L**
10. We ___ seedless raisins now. **eat; A**
Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

A verb phrase is a verb that has more than one word. The main verb shows action. A helping verb shows the time of the action. In the following sentence, telling is the main verb, and are is the helping verb.

The people are telling stories.

The helping verbs am, is, and are show present time. Was and were show past time. Will shows future time. The helping verbs has, have, and had show that an action happened in the past. In the following sentences, had and will are helping verbs.

He had told that story before. He will tell that story again.

Directions Underline the verb phrase in each sentence.

1. Native Americans had told interesting legends.
2. They were explaining the world around them.
3. I have heard legends about the sun and the moon.
4. In some stories, animals are talking like people.
5. Someday I will entertain you with the stories.

Directions Look at the underlined verb in each sentence. Write M if it is a main verb. Write H if it is a helping verb.

6. I am writing a legend.
7. I have set the story in a forest.
8. The flowers are talking to the trees.
9. The huge trees will care for the little flowers.
10. You will hear my story soon.
Subject-Verb Agreement

For present-tense verbs, the subject and verb in a sentence must agree. To make most present-tense verbs agree with singular subjects, add -s to the verb. If the subject is plural, the present-tense verb does not end in -s. Verbs used with the pronouns I, you, we, and they do not end in -s.

**Singular Subject**

The sun rises early. It shines in my window. I wake up.

**Plural Subject**

Stars look like glitter. They twinkle in the dark sky.

A form of be in a sentence also must agree with the subject. Use am, is, or was to agree with singular nouns. Use are or were to agree with plural nouns.

**Singular Subject**

The sun is shining brightly. The sun was high in the sky.

**Plural Subject**

Stars were lighting the sky. We are stargazing.

**Directions** Choose the verb in ( ) that agrees with the subject. Write the verb.

1. The Earth (move, moves) around the sun. **moves**

2. Some stars (form, forms) animal shapes. **form**

3. The girls (is, are) looking for the North Star. **are**

4. I (see, sees) a shooting star! **see**

**Directions** Choose the verb in ( ) that agrees with the subject. Write the sentence.

5. The sun (is, are) not the biggest star. **The sun is not the biggest star.**

6. A telescope (help, helps) you to see stars that are far away. **A telescope helps you to see stars that are far away.**

7. My brothers (connect, connects) the stars to see the shape they form. **My brothers connect the stars to see the shape they form.**

8. The universe (is, are) very big! **The universe is very big!**
Present, Past, and Future Tenses

Verbs can show when an action happens. This is called tense. Different verb tenses have different forms. For present-tense verbs, the subject and verb in a sentence must agree. To make most present-tense verbs agree with singular subjects, add -s to the verb. If the subject is plural, the present-tense verb does not end in -s. Verbs used with the pronouns I, you, we, and they do not end in -s. Form the past tense of many verbs by adding -ed. Add the helping verb will to a verb to make it a future-tense verb.

| Present Tense       | A fish jumps out of the pond. |
| Past Tense         | The boy pulled the fish in on a line. |
| Future Tense       | The boy will toss the fish back into the water. |

- When a verb ends with e, drop the e before adding -ed: close → closed
- When a one-syllable verb ends with one vowel followed by one consonant, double the final consonant before adding -ed: hop → hopped
- When a verb ends with a consonant followed by y, change the y to i before adding -ed: cry → cried

Directions Tell the tense of the underlined verb in each sentence. Write present, past, or future.

1. A whale **calls** to other whales. **present**
2. The whale **will use** the sound’s echo. **future**
3. A whale’s flukes **move** up and down. **present**
4. The whale **breathed** through the blowhole on its head. **past**

Directions Choose the verb in ( ) that completes each sentence in the given tense. Write the sentence.

5. Tough skin (covers, will cover) the whale’s body. (present) **Tough skin covers the whale’s body.**
6. The whale (slips, will slip) through water. (future) **The whale will slip through water.**
Irregular Verbs

Usually you add -ed to a verb to show past tense. **Irregular verbs** do not follow this rule. Instead of having -ed forms to show past tense, irregular verbs change to other words. Below are some examples. Use the special past forms in the third column of the chart only with these helping verbs.

Here are some irregular verbs and their past forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>Past with has, have, or had</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>begin</td>
<td>began</td>
<td>(has, have, had) begun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>did</td>
<td>(has, have, had) done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>find</td>
<td>found</td>
<td>(has, have, had) found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>give</td>
<td>gave</td>
<td>(has, have, had) given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go</td>
<td>went</td>
<td>(has, have, had) gone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run</td>
<td>ran</td>
<td>(has, have, had) run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>see</td>
<td>saw</td>
<td>(has, have, had) seen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take</td>
<td>took</td>
<td>(has, have, had) taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>think</td>
<td>thought</td>
<td>(has, have, had) thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wear</td>
<td>wore</td>
<td>(has, have, had) worn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directions** Choose the correct form of the irregular verb in ( ) to complete each sentence. Write the verb on the line.

1. I have (saw, seen) a saguaro cactus. **seen**
2. Many animals (find, found) a home there. **found**
3. I (think, thought) the animals like it. **think**

**Directions** Write each sentence. Use the correct past form of the verb in ( ).

4. He (run) when he heard the rattlesnake. **He ran when he heard the rattlesnake.**
5. The bat had (take) a sip from the flower. **The bat had taken a sip from the flower.**
6. I have already (go) to a desert to see a cactus. **I have already gone to a desert to see a cactus.**