Verbs: Action (Transitive/Intransitive)

A **verb** is a word that expresses action or a state of being and is necessary to make a statement. An **action verb** tells what someone or something does. Some action verbs express physical action. Other verbs express mental action.

A **transitive verb** is an action verb that is followed by a word or words that anser the question what? Or whom?

 The dancer **performed** the most difficult movements. (The action verb performed is followed by the noun *movements,* which answers the question *what*?)

**An intransitive verb** is an action verb that is not followed by words that answer the question what? Or whom?

 The dancer **performed** gracefully. (The action verb *performed* is followed by a word that tells how.)

Underline the verb in the sentences.

1. Kathleen Battle, the opera star, sings amazingly well.
2. The red ants fought the black ants.
3. My aunt plays soccer every Sunday.
4. The hawk flew slowly over the forest.
5. Everyone saw the horse with the beautiful saddle.
6. Twenty-thousand people watched in amazement.
7. Beth finally heard that new song by the Ooglies.
8. The members of the chess club elected Janelle president.
9. The sound engineer recorded the bass and guitars first.
10. Dogs hear much better than humans.
11. I never watch game shows on television.
12. Robin finished early.
13. The dolphin turned quickly and smoothly.
14. I finished my homework during study hall.
15. I turned the pages of the old book with care.

Linking Verbs

**A linking verb** links, or joins, the subject of a sentence (often a *noun or pronoun*) with a word or expression that identifies or describes the subject. Be in all its forms (*am, is, are, was, were, been, being*) is the most common linking verb. Other linking verbs include *look, sound, feel, grow, remain, stay, seem, appear, become, and taste.*

 I am a soldier

 The opera sounded wonderful

 Bananas were plentiful.

 She felt sad.

Circle the number next to each sentence whose main verb is a linking verb.

1. Irish Americans are one of this country’s largest immigrant groups.
2. About 40 million Americans claim Irish ancestry.
3. This total is almost ten times the number of people in the country of Ireland today.
4. Irish immigrants came to his country very early in its history.
5. Ireland was a country with a large population.
6. The large number of people caused a rise in the poverty level.
7. Many Irish felt hopeful about the endless job opportunities in America.
8. In 1845, a terrible potato famine struck Ireland.
9. The first big wave of Irish immigrants started in the 1840s.
10. Most Irish immigrants settled in the large cities of the Northeast.
11. The Irish had an advantage over other immigrants because they could speak English.
12. Irish Americans have made important contributions in many areas of American life and society.
13. One well-known Irish American was President John F. Kennedy.
14. Irish American Eugene O’Neill, an outstanding dramatist, won the Nobel Prize in literature for his plays.

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Verb Phrases

A **verb** in a sentence may consist of more than one word. The words that accompany the main verb are called **auxiliary** or helping verbs. A **verb phrase** consists of a main verb and all its auxiliary verbs.

Forms of be am, is, are, was, were, being, been

Forms of have has, have, had

Other auxiliaries can, could, may, might, shall, will, do, does, did, must, should, would

The most common auxiliary berbs are the forms of be and have.

They **are going.**

They **have gone.**

They **had been going.**

The other auxiliary verbs are not used primarily to express time.

She **should be arriving**.

She **could** already **be sitting** there.

**Could** she **have arrived**?

Circle the number of each sentence that contains an auxiliary verb. Circle the auxiliary verb. Underline the verb phrase.

1. On the outside, stock cars may appear normal.
2. Under the hood, stock cars have always has special, powerful engines.
3. The cars also have additional safety features.
4. No one has been more successful in auto races than Richard Petty.
5. The stock car race driver was known to millions of fans as “King Richard.”
6. From 1960 to 1984, Richard Petty was winning in his trademark blue car.
7. He had crossed the finish line first more than two hundred times.
8. The King was involved in many crashes, including a nasty one at the 1976 Daytona 500.
9. Richard Petty won his last race on July 4, 1984.
10. He remained a favorite with fans because of his friendliness.
11. Men and women, boys and girls, and people of all ages enjoy watching the races.

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