

**15.1****Action Verbs (Visible and Mental Action) • Practice 1**

**Visible and Mental Action** An action verb tells what action a person or thing is performing. Action verbs can express different kinds of actions. Some actions are visible and can be seen easily. Others are mental actions that can be seen only with difficulty, if at all.

Visible Action		Mental Action	
jump	travel	believe	dream
build	grow	know	think
jog	deliver	consider	understand

**Exercise 1 Recognizing Action Verbs.** Underline the action verb in each sentence below. In the space provided write V if it is a visible verb and M if it is a verb that indicates a mental action.

**EXAMPLE:** The batter slid into third base.   V  

1. I wonder about my future almost every day. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The old locomotive pulled into the station. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Maria purchased a new wallet in the flea market. \_\_\_\_\_
4. After several hours at the beach, we drove home on the bus. \_\_\_\_\_
5. My grandmother remembers her childhood in Poland. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Some people worry almost all the time. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Cut the beef for the stew into small cubes. \_\_\_\_\_
8. This airline flies to Madrid twice weekly. \_\_\_\_\_
9. I considered my choices carefully. \_\_\_\_\_
10. After dinner, my parents opened their anniversary present. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2 Using Action Verbs in Sentences.** Fill in the blanks below with appropriate action verbs. Supply the kind of action verb indicated in the parentheses.

**EXAMPLE:** I often wonder about the future. (mental)

1. A large delivery van \_\_\_\_\_ in front of our building. (visible)
2. I often \_\_\_\_\_ about my childhood on the farm. (mental)
3. Our committee strongly \_\_\_\_\_ about making some changes. (mental)
4. The Independence Day parade \_\_\_\_\_ early in the morning. (visible)
5. Christine \_\_\_\_\_ a leading role in *West Side Story*. (visible)
6. Our family \_\_\_\_\_ to take a vacation in August. (mental)
7. Finally, after mother's warning, I \_\_\_\_\_ my room. (visible)
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ exactly how to put it together. (mental)
9. After the big snow storm, Mark \_\_\_\_\_ the driveway. (visible)
10. Last night I \_\_\_\_\_ that I was walking down a long, dark corridor. (mental)

## 15.1

**Action Verbs (Visible and Mental Action) • Practice 2**

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Action Verbs.** Underline the action verb in each sentence. Then label each as *visible* or *mental*.

**EXAMPLE:** People once believed in goblins. visible

1. Jetliners fly quickly across the Atlantic. \_\_\_\_\_
2. For many weeks, Columbus and his crew worried about reaching land. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Juan dreamed of his family in Cuba. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The quarterback threw a long pass. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The receiver barely caught the ball. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Elizabeth Kenny developed a treatment for polio. \_\_\_\_\_
7. She considered warmth and exercise to be the best therapy. \_\_\_\_\_
8. He remembers many events from World War II. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Weeds suddenly sprouted all over our front lawn. \_\_\_\_\_
10. She believed in justice and freedom for all. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Paco rode his pony across the meadow. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Terry hoped for better days. \_\_\_\_\_
13. For several hours, Rita carefully prepared the feast. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Jean wrapped the gift in colorful paper. \_\_\_\_\_
15. With the approach of the storm, the sailors feared the worst. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Darlene appreciated her aunt's efforts. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Stan pushed his little sister on the swing. \_\_\_\_\_
18. After an hour of study, Maryanne understood the concept. \_\_\_\_\_
19. We drove to our little cabin in the mountains. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Wanda wondered about the meaning of Juan's actions. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2** **Writing Sentences With Action Verbs.** Write a sentence for each action verb. Then write *V* if the action is visible and *M* if the action is mental.

**EXAMPLE:** listen: \_\_\_\_\_ The birds listen for an answering call. *V*

1. ate \_\_\_\_\_
2. feared \_\_\_\_\_
3. slept \_\_\_\_\_
4. appreciated \_\_\_\_\_
5. understand \_\_\_\_\_
6. folded \_\_\_\_\_
7. wrote \_\_\_\_\_
8. wondered \_\_\_\_\_
9. drank \_\_\_\_\_
10. hoped \_\_\_\_\_

## 15.1

**Action Verbs (Transitive and Intransitive Verbs)****• Practice 1**

**Transitive Verbs** An action verb is transitive if the receiver of the action is named in the sentence. The receiver of the action is called the object of the verb.

**TRANSITIVE VERBS**

Meg *unwrapped* her present.  
(unwrapped what?) present  
Mother *likes* eggs.  
(likes what?) eggs

**Intransitive Verbs** An action verb is intransitive if no receiver of the action is named in the sentence. A sentence with an intransitive verb will not have an object.

**INTRANSITIVE VERBS**

Both witnesses *agreed*.  
(agreed what?) no answer  
Nancy *spoke* to her doctor.  
(spoke what?) no answer

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Transitive Action Verbs.** Underline the transitive action verb in each sentence below and circle its object.

**EXAMPLE:** I have your ticket for the football game.

1. Firemen pulled the child from the burning car.
2. After a long trip we finally reached Atlanta.
3. Judy left her jacket in her school locker.
4. After dinner I enjoy a rich dessert.
5. The sergeant ordered his troops to halt.
6. Each of us named our favorite rock group.
7. Our quarterback threw a long pass for a touchdown.
8. Much to my surprise, I knew the answer to the problem.
9. Father mailed your letter in the city.
10. Carefully explain your decision to the committee.

**Exercise 2** **Recognizing Intransitive Action Verbs.** Underline the intransitive verb in each sentence below.

**EXAMPLE:** The young colt galloped alongside the fence.

1. Both my sisters sing in the church choir.
2. After listening to the charges, the manager resigned.
3. All the files burned in the fire.
4. My sister swam in the 100-meter freestyle event.
5. The United Nations delegate flew to Geneva for a conference.
6. In Babylonian legend, Gilgamesh ruled in the kingdom of Erech.
7. The two gray cats peacefully slept on the couch.
8. Our victorious team raced off the field.
9. Receiving an enthusiastic welcome, the speaker grinned broadly.
10. The park concert lasted for almost three hours.

**15.1****Action Verbs (Transitive and Intransitive Verbs)****• Practice 2****Exercise 1** Recognizing Transitive Action Verbs. Underline the transitive action verbs.**EXAMPLE:** Andy hit a home run on her first try.

1. Lightning struck the new building.
2. Later in the day, Beth prepared the entire report.
3. Congress bought its first two navy vessels on October 13, 1775.
4. The train reached the station two hours late.
5. According to legend, Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address while on his way to Pennsylvania.
6. Tom chopped enough wood to last through January.
7. At noon the flood waters reached the top of the barrier.
8. Jan put the groceries away.
9. Louise uses a kerosene heater in her room.
10. My parents planted various flowers near the entrance to our house.

**Exercise 2** Recognizing Intransitive Action Verbs. Underline the intransitive action verbs.**EXAMPLE:** He runs faster in the morning.

1. Her ring fell between the planks of the boardwalk.
2. My brother laughed for an hour at the joke.
3. The explorers traveled along the banks of the river.
4. We talked for hours after dinner.
5. Fort Pierre grew slowly from a small trading post near Bad River in Missouri.

**Writing Application** Writing Sentences With Action Verbs. Use each of the five verbs in two sentences of your own, once as a transitive verb and once as an intransitive verb. Label your sentences *transitive* or *intransitive*.

**EXAMPLE:** read     He read the novel in a week. transitive  
                                  After lunch, he read until dinner. intransitive

1. eat \_\_\_\_\_  
       \_\_\_\_\_
2. jump \_\_\_\_\_  
       \_\_\_\_\_
3. grow \_\_\_\_\_  
       \_\_\_\_\_
4. write \_\_\_\_\_  
       \_\_\_\_\_
5. visit \_\_\_\_\_  
       \_\_\_\_\_

**15.2****Linking Verbs (Transitive and Intransitive Verbs)****• Practice 1**

**Forms of Be** A linking verb connects a noun or pronoun at or near the beginning of a sentence with a word at or near the end. The verb *be* is the most commonly used linking verb.

FORMS OF BE	
am	were being
are	can be
is	shall be
was	have been
were	should have been

**Other Linking Verbs** A number of other verbs can be used as linking verbs.

OTHER LINKING VERBS		
appear	look	sound
become	remain	stay
feel	seem	taste
grow	smell	turn

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Forms of Be as Linking Verbs.** Underline the form of *be* in each sentence below.

**EXAMPLE:** With luck I would have been at the station.

1. Hazleton is an industrial city in central Pennsylvania.
2. Who will be at the airport to greet the candidate?
3. Because of the storm, the speaker may be late.
4. My assistant will be happy to help you.
5. Until today they have been early each morning.
6. My brother is being unusually stubborn.
7. The bus should have been on time.
8. Your umbrella must be in the hall closet.
9. Elizabeth Bishop was a fine American poet.
10. Yes, I am quite proud of my heritage.

**Exercise 2** **Recognizing Other Linking Verbs.** Underline the linking verb in each sentence below.

**EXAMPLE:** The mushroom sauce tastes bitter.

1. Your fundraising plan sounds excellent.
2. The president becomes a private citizen in a month.
3. The cake in the oven smells delicious.
4. The actress looked older than her pictures.
5. Grandfather feels a little better this morning.
6. This new plan seems acceptable to everyone.
7. Without refrigeration, milk quickly turns sour.
8. This new cello sounds richer than my old one.
9. After the question, the congressman appeared angry.
10. In later life my aunt grew impatient with us.

# 15.2 Linking Verbs (Transitive and Intransitive Verbs)

## • Practice 2

**Exercise 1** Recognizing Forms of *Be* as Linking Verbs. Underline the form of *be* in each of the following sentences. Then draw a double-headed arrow connecting the words that are linked by the verb.

**EXAMPLE:** Edgar Allan Poe was a writer of great imagination.

1. Ringo Starr was the drummer for the Beatles.
2. The team League has been the winner in most recent All-Star games.
3. Edgar Allan Poe was for a short time a cadet at West Point.
4. The writer of supernatural tales might have been a strange general.
5. Marie Curie was the winner of two Nobel Prizes.
6. Your first choice should be the new jazz album.
7. Halley's Comet was visible from parts of the United States in 1986.
8. Americans were fearful and excited about its visit in 1910.
9. Ethel Barrymore was part of a famous theatrical family.
10. This family of actors had been successful on the stage before working in movies.
11. The hole in the donut's center was the invention of the Pennsylvania Dutch.
12. Before that invention, donuts were often very soggy inside.
13. I am sure of these facts.
14. Spoons are thousands of years older than forks.
15. Forks have been useful since the eleventh century.

**Exercise 2** Identifying Other Linking Verbs. Underline the linking verb in each of the following sentences. Then draw a double-headed arrow connecting the words that are linked by the verb.

**EXAMPLE:** The chili tastes delicious.

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|---|--|
| 1. The plant grew sturdy in the hothouse.                 | 8. At the moment he appears very unhappy.          |
| 2. Gold coins seem a better investment.                   | 9. Both sponges smell sour.                        |
| 3. Although far apart, the sisters remained good friends. | 10. The noises from the empty house sound strange. |
| 4. The new chorus sounds even better than the old.        | 11. Marjorie stayed optimistic all those years.    |
| 5. Sometimes Alex feels weak and tired.                   | 12. This sandwich tastes stale.                    |
| 6. That plant turns brown in the fall.                    | 13. The visitor became more and more demanding.    |
| 7. The roast goose looks sensational.                     | 14. The argument turned more boisterous.           |
|   | 15. His destination remains a mystery.             |