

Name _____

Action Verbs

The verb states something about the subject. A verb that expresses action is called an action verb.

Example: The snake slithered under the log.
The snake slithered under the log, and then it reappeared.
That snake has startled me for the last time! (an auxiliary verb can accompany the action verb)

Underline the action verb in each sentence. Circle the subject.

1. Valerie loves creative gardening.
2. The search for new additions to her garden goes on and on.
3. For instance, yesterday she spotted a wild aster in the brush of a vacant lot.
4. She gently pulled up the aster by its roots.
5. Valerie tucked the flower beside a fuzzy goldenrod in her side yard.
6. The whole yard is brimming with black-eyed susans, sunflowers, and honeysuckle.
7. A pond in the center is filled with water lilies and frogs.
8. Her passion for wildflowers is also demonstrated throughout her garden.
9. She has transformed her yard into a haven for the native flora and associated wildlife.
10. Her choices of plants lure birds, butterflies, and bugs with their nectar and berries.
11. They offer shelter with safe branches and scrubby brambles.
12. Every plant grows as if it has a special purpose.
13. She reads everything available on gardening.
14. Migratory birds and mockingbirds often fly through her little haven.
15. Residential birds like cardinals and bluejays spend their lives there.
16. A bed of bright flowers attracts butterflies and bees.
17. Wild animals are not the only animals tempted by the garden.
18. Youngsters come to Valerie's home for seeds and advice.
19. People from all over town come with thoughtful additions for her garden.
20. They proudly watch their contributions become part of Valerie's wonderful haven.

Linking Verbs

Linking verbs describe conditions instead of actions. They are followed by words that rename or describe the subject. Forms of the verb *to be* are most commonly used as linking verbs, although these forms can also be used as auxiliary verbs in verb phrases. Other forms include *appear, become, feel, grow, look, prove, remain, seem, and turn*. These verbs do not function as linking verbs if they do not describe conditions that are followed by a word that renames or describes the subject.

Example: → { Carla is my only sister. (linking)
 Carla's friend is running for governor. (auxiliary)
 Bob grew sleepy during the long lecture. (linking)
 Roger grew beautiful roses in his garden. (action)

Look at each underlined verb. If the verb is linking, write L in the blank. If the verb is auxiliary write AUX in the blank. If it is an action verb write ACT in the blank. *Helping*

- L 1. Matthew is a really tall fellow.
- AUX 2. That puppy ^{MV} is ^{MV} following me again.
3. The gypsy turned the tarot card.
4. She turned pale when she saw the ghost.
5. Marsha became a grandmother at sixty-one.
6. He was an Elvis look-alike.
7. Elizabeth felt a fever coming on.
8. Jennifer felt a bit sheepish.
9. The maple tree is a good spot for meditating.
10. The bee was circling my head.
11. His booksack was found in the gym.
12. Her purse looked shabby.
13. The toddler looked under the bed.
14. Mary and Ben remained friends for life.
15. The guilty person remained silent.

The 23 Auxiliary Verbs

Helping

will

could

been

would

must

have

may

did

has

do

am

had

shall

is

being

should

are

might

was

does

were

can

be

Name _____

Auxiliary Verbs

Auxiliary verbs, also called helping verbs, never occur without a main verb. An auxiliary verb helps the main verb to express tense, voice, or mood, but usually has little meaning of its own. Some examples include *be, do, have, can, might, would, may, will, and must*. Two or more verbs combined is called a verb phrase. Verb phrases contain at least one auxiliary verb. Adverbs may appear in the middle of a verb phrase, but they are not part of it.

Example: We are waiting in a long line.
I would have gone with him.
I could hardly wait.

Underline the main verb once. Underline the auxiliary verb(s) twice.

1. The West Highland White Terrier has attained a high degree of popularity as both a loyal pet and a show dog.
2. Before this century, these hardy animals had abounded as working dogs in the Scottish Highlands for over three hundred years.
3. They had earned their livings following fox, badger, and otter for hunters.
4. The ancestors of the breed were known in the past under various names such as Roseneath and Little Skye.
5. The breed was first classified at the annual show of The Scottish Kennel Club in 1904.
6. After 1916, all shows were stopped by World War I.
7. Breeding was prohibited in 1917 and 1918, and no dogs were allowed to be registered.
8. By 1919 breeding had started again, and soon many dogs were registered.
9. A long line of champions has followed.
10. The breed has been described as linty white in color with hard and bristly hair.
11. The Westie should have a long stride, straight shoulders, and a stilted gait.
12. It has been noted for its attentive ears, free, cheerful movement, and high self-esteem.