

The Verb

What Is a Verb?

12a. A **verb** is a word used to express action or a state of being.

EXAMPLES We **learned** about weather patterns. [The verb *learned* expresses the action *We* performed.]
Mr. Epstein **is** my teacher. [The verb *is* does not express an action. Instead, it tells something about *Mr. Epstein's* state of being.]

EXERCISE A Underline the verb in each of the following sentences.

Examples 1. Dena's mother was a well-known painter. [The verb *was* tells something about *mother's* state of being.]

2. She taught art classes at the community college. [The verb *taught* expresses the action *She* performed.]

- Dena is also very creative. [Which word tells something about *Dena's* state of being?]
- For her mother's present, she painted a waterfront scene. [Which word expresses the action *she* performed?]
- She completed the painting in two weeks.
- She copied the scene from one of her mother's favorite postcards.
- Is the postcard from Lake Tahoe?
- It pictures a bench on the edge of the water.
- How beautiful the blue water looked!
- Beautiful mountains are in the background.
- The scene seems peaceful.
- Dena captured the mood of the postcard perfectly.

Main Verbs and Helping Verbs

The main verb is the word that expresses the action or state of being in a sentence. A *helping verb* helps the main verb express action or a state of being. Helping verbs are added to the main verb to make the main verb more specific.

NOTE Helping verbs are also called *auxiliary verbs*.

COMMON HELPING VERBS

FORMS OF BE	am	been	be	was
	are	being	is	were

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FORMS OF DO	do	does	did	
FORMS OF HAVE	had	has	have	
OTHER HELPING VERBS	can	may	will/shall	should
	could	might	would	must

EXAMPLES Paul **will** give his presentation on Monday. [The helping verb *will* helps the main verb *give* express a future action.]
 Clara's presentation about the migration of monarch butterflies **should** be informative. [The helping verb *should* helps the main verb *be* express an expected state of being.]

Together a main verb and at least one helping verb make up a *verb phrase*.

EXAMPLES We **should have been** home by now. [The helping verbs are *should* and *have*, and the main verb is *been*.]
Have you **been playing** soccer long? [The helping verbs are *have* and *been*, and the main verb is *playing*.]
 She **has** not **updated** her Web page since March. [The helping verb is *has*, and the main verb is *updated*.]

TIP▶ The word *not* and the contraction *n't* are never part of the verb phrase.

EXAMPLE I **don't have** any extra pencils. [The contraction *n't* is not part of the verb phrase *do have*.]

EXERCISE B Underline the verb or verb phrase in each of the following sentences. Be sure to include all words in a verb phrase.

Examples 1. The beach was crowded. [The verb is *was*.]

2. We had studied two hours for the math test. [The verb phrase is *had studied*. The main verb is *studied*, and the helping verb is *had*.]

11. He is the youngest in the family. [What is the main word that expresses state of being?]
12. How lucky you always are!
13. I should have used a coupon.
14. Those strawberries certainly do smell good!
15. Posters of sports cars lined the walls of his room.
16. Shall we go to the Natural Science Museum on Saturday?
17. During the performance, no one will be admitted late.
18. She will study chemistry.
19. Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon?
20. I must have been sleeping at the time.

Action Verbs and Linking Verbs

Action Verbs

Verbs can be identified as action verbs or as linking verbs.

An *action verb* is a verb that expresses either physical or mental action.

EXAMPLES Sharon **played** basketball. [The verb *played* expresses physical action.]
I **forgot** about the meeting. [The verb *forgot* expresses mental action.]

REMINDER When you identify action verbs, remember to include any helping verbs.

EXAMPLES **Will** your parents **be driving** us to the swim meet? [The main verb is *driving*, and the helping verbs are *Will* and *be*. The verb phrase *Will be driving* expresses physical action.]

Did you **remember** the binoculars? [The main verb is *remember*, and the helping verb is *did*. The verb phrase *Did remember* expresses mental action.]

EXERCISE A Underline the action verbs in each of the following sentences. Remember to include any helping verbs.

Examples 1. Lewis researched the legend of Robin Hood. [*Researched* expresses the action *Lewis* performed.]

2. Will Mrs. Steiner announce the winners today? [*Will announce* expresses the action *Mrs. Steiner* performs.]

1. Yoko wrote a short story about her cat. [Which word tells the action *Yoko* performed?]
2. Have you visited your aunt lately? [Which words tell the action *you* perform?]
3. I often daydream about the beach.
4. How long did the trip last?
5. I always remember my family's birthdays.
6. My dog had been digging holes in the backyard.
7. Rick will be taking piano lessons this summer.
8. Will you return this book to the library today?
9. Have you thought about the topic for your science project?
10. Cedric understood the importance of good study habits.

Linking Verbs

A *linking verb* is a verb that connects, or links, the subject to a word or word group that identifies or describes the subject.

Many linking verbs are forms of the verb *be*.

am	be	being	was
are	been	is	were

Other common linking verbs include the following:

appear	feel	sound
become	seem	taste

EXAMPLES Lee **will be** the director of the school play. [The linking verb *will be* connects the subject, *Lee*, to the word, *director*, that identifies her.]

Didn't the vegetables **taste** good? [The linking verb *Did taste* connects the subject, *vegetables*, to the word, *good*, that describes it.]

EXERCISE B Underline the linking verbs in each of the following sentences. Remember to include any helping verbs.

Examples 1. Has your brother been feeling better? [The linking verb *Has been feeling* links *brother* to *better*.]

2. This painting is famous. [The linking verb *is* links *painting* to *famous*.]

11. The jazz band's performance was wonderful! [Which word links *performance* to *wonderful*?]
12. Mrs. Abraham's class seems enthusiastic about the upcoming science fair. [Which word links *class* to *enthusiastic*?]
13. That book has become a classic.
14. My father is a nurse.
15. That poster of the waterfall has always been my favorite.
16. Are you a member of the newspaper staff?
17. The falling rain sounds pleasant.
18. The grandfather clock had been a gift from her great-aunt.
19. Will pine needles stay green forever?
20. The baby looks sleepy.

The Adverb

What Is an Adverb?

12b. An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Adverbs may come before or after the words they modify. Adverbs answer the following questions: Where? How often? How long? When? To what extent? How much? How?

NOTE The word *not* is nearly always used as an adverb modifying a verb. When *not* is part of a contraction, as in *hadn't*, *wasn't*, or *isn't*, the *-n't* is still an adverb.

EXAMPLES My cat **frequently** plays with the ball of string. [The adverb *frequently* modifies the verb *plays* and tells *how often*.]

Didn't the faculty meet **briefly** to discuss the success of the recycling program? [The adverb *n't* modifies the verb *Did meet* and tells *to what extent*. The adverb *briefly* modifies the verb *Did meet* and tells *how long*.]

The speaker walked to the podium **very slowly**. [The adverb *very* modifies the adverb *slowly* and tells *to what extent*. The adverb *slowly* modifies the verb *walked* and tells *how*.]

The graduation celebration was held **inside**, and the auditorium was **completely** full. [The adverb *inside* modifies the verb *was held* and tells *where*. The adverb *completely* modifies the adjective *full* and tells *how much*.]

EXERCISE A Draw an arrow from the underlined adverb in each of the following sentences to the word or words it modifies. Hint: An adverb modifies each word in a verb phrase, not just the main verb. If the adverb is modifying a verb phrase, be sure to draw an arrow from the adverb to each part of the verb.

Example 1. You should practice the piano daily. [The adverb *daily* modifies the verb *should practice* and tells *how often*.]

1. Our team always gives one hundred percent. [*Always* tells *how often* about which word?]
2. What an exceptionally cool room you have! [*Exceptionally* tells *to what extent* about which word?]
3. The vegetable dish was quite good.
4. The diamonds glittered brilliantly in the moonlight.
5. Today, we will view some of Pablo Picasso's greatest works.
6. This shade of red seems almost pinkish to me.

7. Yes, you are absolutely correct.
8. Do you live nearby?
9. A rather strong wind had blown the sailboat off its course.
10. Call me tonight.

The Position of Adverbs

Adverbs may appear in various places in a sentence. Adverbs come before, after, or between the words they modify.

In each of the following sentences, the adverb *sometimes* modifies the verb *are held*.

EXAMPLES *Sometimes*, the student council meetings are held in the cafeteria.

The student council meetings are held in the cafeteria **sometimes**.

The student council meetings are **sometimes** held in the cafeteria.

An adverb that introduces a question usually appears at the beginning of a sentence.

EXAMPLE *Where* do you want me to put the package?

EXERCISE B Underline the adverb in the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow to the word or words the adverb modifies. Remember to draw the arrow to each part of a verb phrase. Hint: Each sentence has only one adverb.

Example 1. They haven't completed all of the repairs. [The adverb *n't* modifies the verb *have completed* and tells to what extent.]

11. Jeremy was very late to karate practice. [Which word modifies the adjective *late*?]
12. They walked slowly through the science exhibit. [Which word modifies the verb *walked*?]
13. Didn't you win the essay writing contest?
14. The new theater has been open nearly two months.
15. Where did you go for spring break?
16. At the beach, the sunsets are incredibly beautiful.
17. The school nurse is always cheerful.
18. I suddenly changed my mind.
19. Don't forget about the math test!
20. Stack all the books here, please.

The Preposition

Prepositions

12c. A **preposition** is a word that shows the relationship of a noun or pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**, to another word.

EXAMPLES I planted roses **in** the flower bed. [The preposition *in* shows the relationship of *planted* to *flower bed*.]

The light **beside** the desk doesn't work. [The preposition *beside* shows the relationship of *light* to *desk*.]

By using a different preposition, you can change the relationship of *light* to *desk*.

EXAMPLES The light **above** the desk doesn't work. [The preposition *above* shows the relationship between *light* and *desk*.]

The light **on** the desk doesn't work. [The preposition *on* shows the relationship between *light* and *desk*.]

COMMON PREPOSITIONS

about	above	along	around
at	before	by	down
during	except	for	from
in	into	like	of
off	on	over	through
to	under	up	without

EXERCISE A Underline the preposition in each of the following sentences.

Examples 1. The path through the woods suddenly ended. [The preposition *through* shows the relationship of *path* to *woods*.]

2. Is that our cat sitting on the roof? [The preposition *on* shows the relationship of *sitting* to *roof*.]

1. A lizard ran across my foot. [Which word shows the relationship of *ran* to *foot*?]
2. Were all the charges listed on the bill? [Which words shows the relationship of *listed* to *bill*?]
3. Address the letter to Mr. Salina.
4. The rabbits along the road sat motionlessly.
5. Without a sound, the curtain fell.
6. Haven't you heard any music by Gloria Estefan?
7. After ten minutes, the buzzer will stop.
8. We need somebody with a bicycle.

9. Do not jump on the bed!
10. Seagulls circled around the ferry.

Compound Prepositions

Some prepositions are *compound* and consist of more than one word.

COMMONLY USED COMPOUND PREPOSITIONS

according to
in front of

along with
in spite of

aside from
instead of

in addition to
on account of

EXAMPLES Walk **along with** me to the library. [The compound preposition *along with* shows the relationship of *Walk* to *me*.]
My house is **next to** the park. [The compound preposition *next to* shows the relationship of *house* to *park*.]

EXERCISE B Underline the preposition(s) in each of the following sentences. Remember to underline all words in a compound preposition. Hint: Some sentences may have more than one preposition.

- Examples** 1. I need the book with the red cover on the top shelf. [The preposition *with* shows the relationship of *book* to *cover*. The preposition *on* shows the relationship of *book* to *shelf*.]
2. Use markers instead of paint. [The compound preposition *instead of* shows the relationship of *markers* to *paint*.]
11. The boy in front of Matt plays the drums. [Which words show the relationship of *boy* to *Matt*?]
 12. In ten minutes, the reporter will interview the winner of the race. [Which word shows the relationship of *will interview* to *minutes*? Which word shows the relationship of *winner* to *race*?]
 13. We hiked along the trail up the mountainside.
 14. No, they never cancel on account of rain.
 15. Do you know who took the clock off the wall?
 16. We could plant laurels instead of pine trees or cedar trees.
 17. Were those birds flying out of the cave?
 18. Have you seen the movie about the baby bear alone in the forest?
 19. According to the newspaper, there is a fifty percent chance of rain today.
 20. Is that package for you or me?

The Conjunction and the Interjection

Coordinating Conjunctions

12d. A **conjunction** is a word used to join words or word groups.

EXAMPLES They watched most of the game, **but** they left before the end. [The conjunction *but* joins the clauses *They watched most of the game* and *they left before the end*.]

Both Carl **and** Margaret work at the nursery. [The conjunctions *both* and *and* join the words *Carl* and *Margaret*.]

Coordinating conjunctions join words or word groups that are used in the same way. They join words to words, phrases to phrases, and clauses to clauses.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

and but for nor or so yet

EXAMPLES butterflies **or** dragonflies [The conjunction *or* joins two words.]
 on the desk **and** beside the monitor [The conjunction *and* joins two phrases.]
 We approved a design for the T-shirts, **but** we still haven't ordered any. [The conjunction *but* joins two clauses.]

EXERCISE A Underline the coordinating conjunction in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. Most summer days, people swim and sail on the lake. [The coordinating conjunction *and* joins the words *swim* and *sail*.]

- Solar energy is inexpensive and renewable. [Which word joins the adjectives *inexpensive* and *renewable*?]
- Not one but two clipper ships sailed into the harbor.
- I want to go to the soccer tournament, but I will be out of town this weekend.
- Call, fax, or write your senator.
- The weather should be nice tomorrow, so we will meet at the park.

Correlative Conjunctions

Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that join words or word groups that are used in the same way. The pairs work together to join words to words, phrases to phrases, and clauses to clauses.

CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

both . . . and
 whether . . . or

either . . . or
 not only . . . but also

neither . . . nor

EXAMPLES The documentary was **both** educational **and** entertaining. [The pair of conjunctions joins the two words *educational* and *entertaining*.]
For my creative writing assignment, **either** I can write a short story **or** I can write five poems. [The pair of conjunctions joins the two clauses *I can write a short story* and *I can write five poems*.]

EXERCISE B Underline the correlative conjunctions in each of the following sentences. Remember to underline both words.

- Example 1.** They are naming the puppy either Ace or Binky. [The pair of conjunctions joins the two words *Ace* and *Binky*.]
6. Both lizards and snakes make Death Valley their territory. [Which words join the nouns *lizards* and *snakes*?]
7. I'll give my report on either Thursday or Friday.
8. Not only "Buffalo Bill" Cody but also "Wild Bill" Hickok rode for the Pony Express.
9. Neither the low budget nor the technical problems could discourage the young filmmakers.
10. I don't know whether we're going to the lake or we're going to the beach.

Interjections

12e. An **interjection** is a word used to express emotion.

An interjection can be left out of the sentence without changing the meaning of the sentence. Commonly used interjections include *oh*, *well*, *hooray*, *aha*, *wow*, and *yikes*.

Interjections that express strong emotions are followed by an exclamation point.

EXAMPLE Hooray! We won the championship!

Interjections that express mild emotions are set off from the rest of the sentence by commas.

EXAMPLE Oops, I forgot to bring the camera.

EXERCISE C Underline the interjection in each of the following sentences.

- Example 1.** The capital of California is, uh, Sacramento. [The interjection *uh* expresses a mild emotion.]
11. Aha! Here's the problem with your spreadsheet. [Which word expresses a strong emotion?]
12. The movie was, well, disappointing.
13. Aw, what a beautiful baby niece you have!
14. Wow! I didn't know you could play the saxophone.
15. Hey! I've got an idea.

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EXERCISE A

1. is
2. painted
3. completed
4. copied
5. Is
6. pictures
7. looked
8. are
9. seems
10. captured

EXERCISE B

11. He is the youngest in the family.
12. How lucky you always are!
13. I should have used a coupon.
14. Those strawberries certainly do smell good.
15. Posters of sports cars lined the walls of his room.
16. Shall we go to the Natural Science Museum on Saturday?
17. During the performance, no one will be admitted late.
18. She will study chemistry.
19. Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon?
20. I must have been sleeping at the time.

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EXERCISE A

1. Yoko wrote a short story about her cat.
2. Have you visited your aunt lately?
3. I often daydream about the beach.
4. How long did the trip last?
5. I always remember my family's birthdays.

6. My dog had been digging holes in the backyard.
7. Rick will be taking piano lessons this summer.
8. Will you return this book to the library today?
9. Have you thought about the topic for your science project?
10. Cedric understood the importance of good study habits.

EXERCISE B

11. The jazz band's performance was wonderful!
12. Mrs. Abraham's class seems enthusiastic about the upcoming science fair.
13. That book has become a classic.
14. My father is a nurse.
15. That poster of the waterfall has always been my favorite.
16. Are you a member of the newspaper staff?
17. The falling rain sounds pleasant.
18. The grandfather clock had been a gift from her great-aunt.
19. Will pine needles stay green forever?
20. The baby looks sleepy.

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EXERCISE A

1. Our team always gives one hundred percent.
2. What an exceptionally cool room you have!
3. The vegetable dish was quite good.
4. The diamonds glittered brilliantly in the moonlight.
5. Today, we will view some of Pablo Picasso's greatest works.

6. This shade of red seems almost pinkish to me.
7. Yes, you are absolutely correct.
8. Do you live nearby?
9. A rather strong wind had blown the sailboat off its course.
10. Call me tonight.

EXERCISE B

11. Jeremy was very late to karate practice.
12. They walked slowly through the science exhibit.
13. Didn't you win the essay writing contest?
14. The new theater has been open nearly two months.
15. Where did you go for spring break?
16. At the beach, the sunsets are incredibly beautiful.
17. The school nurse is always cheerful.
18. I suddenly changed my mind.
19. Don't forget about the math test!
20. Stack all the books here, please.

The Preposition, pp. 25–26

EXERCISE A

1. across
2. on
3. to
4. along
5. Without
6. by
7. After

8. with
 9. on
 10. around
- EXERCISE B**
11. in front of
 12. in, of
 13. along, up
 14. on account of
 15. off
 16. instead of
 17. out of
 18. about, in
 19. According to, of
 20. for

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EXERCISE A

1. and
2. but
3. but
4. or
5. so

EXERCISE B

6. Both . . . and
7. either . . . or
8. Not only . . . but also
9. Neither . . . nor
10. whether . . . or

EXERCISE C

11. Aha
12. well
13. Aw
14. Wow
15. Hey