

Action and Linking Verbs

A complete sentence has a subject and a predicate. The main word in the predicate is a verb. An **action verb** tells what the subject does.

The river *flooded* the town.

A **linking verb** links, or joins, the subject to a word or words in the predicate. It tells what the subject is or is like.

The townspeople *were* afraid.

- Action verbs can tell about actions that are physical (*walk, carry*) or mental (*forget, understand*).
- Forms of the verb *be* (*am, is, are, was, were*) are often used as linking verbs.
- These verbs can be linking verbs: *become, seem, appear, feel, taste, smell, and look*. (*I feel hungry. The pie smells delicious.*) However, some of them can also be used as action verbs (*Feel this fabric. The dog smells many scents.*)

Directions Underline the verb in each sentence. Write *A* on the line if the verb is an action verb. Write *L* if it is a linking verb.

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| 1. The girl <u>feels</u> nervous. | <u> L </u> |
| 2. Today <u>is</u> her wedding day. | <u> L </u> |
| 3. She <u>sits</u> in a fancy chair. | <u> A </u> |
| 4. Footmen <u>carry</u> the chair on their shoulders. | <u> A </u> |
| 5. The girl <u>is</u> only sixteen. | <u> L </u> |
| 6. Her parents <u>arranged</u> the marriage. | <u> A </u> |
| 7. She <u>sees</u> her husband for the first time. | <u> A </u> |
| 8. He <u>looks</u> handsome and kind. | <u> L </u> |
| 9. She <u>appears</u> happy and content. | <u> L </u> |
| 10. Some Chinese customs <u>seem</u> unusual to us. | <u> L </u> |

Directions Find the verb in each sentence. If the verb is an action verb, write it under **Action**. If it is a linking verb, write it under **Linking**.

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| 11. Animals symbolize different things. | <u>symbolize</u> | <u> </u> |
| 12. A coyote is resourceful and cunning. | <u> </u> | <u>is</u> |
| 13. An eagle seems fiercely proud and free. | <u> </u> | <u>seems</u> |
| 14. The lion rules its territory with dignity. | <u>rules</u> | <u> </u> |
| 15. A lion appears kinglike to people. | <u> </u> | <u>appears</u> |