Section 1

Lesson 1

Types of Verbs: Action, Being, Linking

A verb is a word that shows action, links parts of the sentence, or simply indicates existence. A verb is the main part of the predicate, which tells what the subject is or does.

**Action verbs** show physical or mental action. They explain what something or someone is doing.

- talk
- sing
- think
- smile

Marlin prayed about the future before doing voluntary service.

**Being verbs** indicate existence. The eight forms of *be* fit in this category. They are considered being verbs only if they are the main verbs of the sentence and are followed by an adverb or prepositional phrase.

- am
- is
- are
- was
- were
- be
- being
- been

These mosquitoes are everywhere.

A **linking verb** connects the subject to a word in the predicate. This word, which renames or describes the subject, is called a predicate nominative or predicate adjective.

- My hot dog bun seems a bit stale.

### The Linking Verbs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Being Verbs</th>
<th>Sometimes Linking</th>
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<tr>
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<td>grow</td>
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**Note:** Some verbs—the “sometimes linking” verbs—can be either action or linking. To determine in which way the verb is functioning, think about whether it is actually doing something (an action verb) or simply stating something (a linking verb).

- **action:** The dog began barking when he smelled the fire.
- **linking:** The onion smelled strong.

Underline the verbs.

1. The doctor looked professional in his white lab coat.
2. Leonardo da Vinci painted several famous works of art.
4. The senator won the election by a close vote.
5. God was not happy with Cain’s sacrifice.
Lesson 1

Identify each underlined verb as action, being, or linking.

6. ______________ Florence Nightingale was the first well-known nurse.
7. ______________ She began her service in a hospital at the age of thirty-three.
8. ______________ In 1854, she took a team of nurses to help injured soldiers in the Crimean War.
9. ______________ She was on the battlefront for several years.
10. ______________ She became famous as the founder of modern nursing.

List eight of each type of verb.

11. action ____________________________________________________________

12. being ____________________________________________________________

13. linking __________________________________________________________

A verb is diagrammed on a horizontal line immediately after the subject.

The bats in the attic made a loud noise.  
___ bats | made | noise___

The kindergarten class recited loudly.  
___ class | recited ___

Aunt Jane is a teacher at our church school.  
___ Aunt Jane | is | teacher___

The boat was on the other side of the creek.  
___ boat | was ___

Diagram each sentence.

14. The ocean water tastes salty.

15. Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross, was in Cuba as a nurse during the Spanish-American War.
16. Giving a great sigh of relief, Alan dropped his shovel.

Looking Back

Write a paragraph.

17. intended purpose: to inform someone about your home state or province
intended audience: someone who wants to visit your state or province
information to include: the name of your state or province and its capital, at least two places
the person might want to visit, and why he would want to visit

Write a noun that fits each description.

18. ____________ concrete, common, singular, count
19. ____________ concrete, proper, non-count
20. ____________ abstract, common, non-count
21. ____________ collective, concrete, common, plural, count

Sometimes verbs work together in phrases. The last verb in the phrase is the main verb. The others are helping verbs.

hv
I am going to visit my cousin’s church on Sunday.

hv hv
The rain has been falling steadily for three hours.

Underline the verb phrases. Circle the helping verbs.

22. Larry was tying his shoes when the phone rang.
23. On October 12, Calvin and Susie will have been married for fifty years.
24. Dismal Swamp, one of the largest swamps in the United States, is located in northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia.
25. May I look at your photo album?

Circle the participles. Underline the other adjectives.

26. The major theme of the Book of Romans is salvation through faith.

27. Written by Paul, this book, forceful and persuasive, tells how mankind is sinful and needs redemption through Jesus Christ.

28. Addressing not only the Roman believers, Paul's words also speak to us today.

Bracket the adjective clauses. Write whether each clause begins with a relative pronoun (rp), relative adverb (ra), or understood relative pronoun.

29. __________ Paul, who was originally called Saul, showed by his own life how a life of sin can be changed.

30. __________ Chapters 3-5 of Romans, where Paul discusses justification by faith, give a good explanation of the very foundation of Christianity.

31. __________ One reason many Christians study this book is to come to a deeper understanding of Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Go back to Nos. 29-31. Draw an arrow from each clause to the word it modifies.

Apostrophes to show possession

For most one-word nouns or pronouns, simply add an apostrophe and s.

Caleb's car  cattle's stalls  anyone's guess  Max's shirt

For plural nouns that already end in s, simply add an apostrophe. Note: The singular nouns Jesus and Moses also require only an apostrophe to form the possessive.

Christians' standards  tractors' tires  democracies' principles

When forming the possessive of a compound, add an apostrophe and s to the last word.

brother-in-law's house  somebody else's purse

Place apostrophes where needed.

32. The dictionary's pages were dog-eared from much use.

33. The whole family helped load Christinas car before she left on vacation.

34. Moses words have been recorded in Exodus.

35. The geese's necks arched gracefully as they soared into the air.

Put parentheses around the adjective phrases. Draw an arrow from each to the word it modifies.


37. The letter from Grace lay unopened until Dad returned home from his job at the factory.

38. Hundreds of pages of the books were wet after the ceiling leaked.
A *fragment* is a sentence mistake that occurs when the subject, verb, or complete thought is missing.

*Up above her head.*        *Although the surgery helped.*

A *run-on* is a sentence mistake in which two or more sentences are joined with improper punctuation.

*Although the surgery helped, Sharon still could not reach above her head,* she had to take physical therapy.

*Although the surgery helped, Sharon still could not reach above her head.* She had to take physical therapy.

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**Label each group of words as a fragment, run-on, or sentence.**

39. Neil Armstrong was one of the first people to reach the moon.
40. The astronaut Gus Grissom, who was from Indiana.
41. The astronaut Gus Grissom was killed in a rocket explosion, later an air force base in Indiana was named for him.
42. Christa McAuliffe was famous for being the first schoolteacher to go into space.

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**Lesson 2**

**Transitive and Intransitive Verbs**

Action verbs can be divided into two groups: transitive and intransitive. *Transitive verbs* have a noun or pronoun that receives or completes the action of the verb. This noun or pronoun is called the *direct object.* *Intransitive verbs* are not followed by any objects; these verbs are complete on their own.

To determine if a verb is transitive or intransitive, ask *who* or *what.* If there is a word answering the question, it is the direct object. Otherwise, the verb is intransitive.

*James threw* the *ball* to the first-baseman. (*James threw* who or what? *James threw* the ball. *Threw* is a *transitive verb.*)

*Kami smiled* sweetly for the photographer. (*Kami smiled* who or what? *There is no answer; therefore, smiled* is *intransitive.*)

The same verb may be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another.

*Dave tossed* me the *news section* of the paper. (*tossed* is *transitive*)

*Gloria tossed* this way and that, tired but unable to sleep. (*tossed* is *intransitive*)
Underline the verbs. Label each as transitive or intransitive. If it is transitive, circle the receiver.

1. Solomon gives many examples of his wisdom in the Book of Proverbs.
2. He instructs sons and daughters about obedience to parents.
3. He also advises against pride and flattery.
4. Following Solomon’s advice can help us.
5. We waited in line for nearly twenty minutes at the grocery store.
6. The bell rang for dismissal at 3:00.
7. Todd’s father attended a meeting at church last evening.
8. Can you find an example in your textbook?

Write sentences using a form of sing as each type of verb.

9. Transitive

10. Intransitive

Editing for Wordiness

Writing should be concise, using as few words as possible. Getting your point across clearly and quickly is important to keep the interest of your reader. How can you get rid of extra words?

Avoid redundancy, unnecessary repetition of words or ideas.

Redundant: blue in color  More concise: blue

Sometimes repetition can be eliminated with the use of pronouns.

Original: My brother John likes cats. My brother John says cats are the friendliest animals.
More concise: My brother John likes cats. He says they are the friendliest animals.

Reduce clauses to phrases or single words.

Original: The boys played soccer when it was recess.
More concise: The boys played soccer at recess.

Original: The field trip was canceled due to the fact that it snowed.
More concise: The field trip was canceled because of snow.

Eliminate unnecessary words.

Original: It says in Romans 12 to present your bodies a living sacrifice.
More concise: Romans 12 says to present your bodies a living sacrifice.
Match each phrase with the word that means the same thing.

11. _____ in this day and age  a. suggested
12. _____ at that point in time  b. because
13. _____ due to the fact that  c. now
14. _____ prior to the time that  d. before
15. _____ made a suggestion  e. then

Rewrite the paragraph, making the underlined portions more concise.

Bible scholars often call the Book of Galatians the Christian “declaration of independence.” The Book of Galatians deals with the theme of grace, going against some who said that Jewish Christians still needed to follow the old law. In the first two chapters of this book, Paul proves that he was an apostle of Christ and was appointed for the purpose of preaching and teaching. It says in Chapter 5 that a Christian who is truly saved by grace also lives a life of good works. Paul ends the book with a benediction to the believers who lived at Galatia.

Looking Back

Label each underlined pronoun as demonstrative, interrogative, or compound.

17. ____________ Which of the folders contains the music for the next song?
18. ____________ That has the musical score for “Lift Up Your Heads.”
19. ____________ I myself have never sung any oratorio other than Handel’s.

Write the letter of the punctuation mark needed for each sentence.

20. _____ Francis Bacon’s essay Of Studies is included in our literature book.
22. _____ The Titanic sank in the Atlantic Ocean in the first decade of the twentieth century.
23. _____ Marty bought these items at the dented can store canned peaches, pears, and cereal.

Underline the verb in each sentence. Label it as action, being, or linking.

24. ______________ Moses and Elijah were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
25. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus.
26. The chicken and noodles smell delicious.
27. The restaurant will close at 8:00 this evening.

Write the case and person of each pronoun.

Case = nominative, objective, possessive  Person = first, second, third

28. she _________________  _________________
29. they _________________  _________________
30. us _________________  _________________
31. his _________________  _________________

Place semicolons and commas wherever needed.

32. The tour includes visits in Salzburg, Austria, Milan, Italy, and Zurich, Switzerland.
33. Pam’s favorite breakfast is scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, and toast.

Bracket the adjective clause. Then diagram the sentence.

34. Salzburg, the city where Mozart was born, is famous for its yearly music festivals.

Rewrite the sentences, correcting any misplaced or dangling modifiers.

35. Flying across the country, the vehicles looked like trails of ants on the highways.

36. I bought a new game for my brother at a garage sale that cost only five dollars.

This paragraph is meant to inform. Rewrite the first sentence so that the purpose would be to persuade.

37. The country of Wales, located west of England, offers interesting attractions for the tourist. Bordered by the Irish Sea and Bristol Channel, the country offers beaches and waterfront properties for visitors. Parts of
the country have mountains ascending more than 6,000 feet above sea level. Wales is known for its rolling green land and peaceful farms.

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**Lesson 3**

**Complements**

A *complement* is a word that follows a verb and completes the action or gives more information. A verb can have more than one complement. Complements never appear within prepositional phrases.

The complements of transitive verbs are **direct objects** and **indirect objects**. A direct object follows a transitive verb and tells *who* or *what*. An indirect object comes between the verb and direct object and answers *to whom/what* or *for whom/what* about the direct object. A sentence cannot have an indirect object without a direct object.

The summer thunderstorm [cooled](#) the [air](#) by evening. *(Thunderstorm cooled what? Cooled air. Air is the direct object.)*

Marlise gave [her](#) [sister](#) the [outline](#) for the Bible study. *(Marlise gave what? Gave outline. Gave outline to whom? To sister. Sister is the indirect object.)*

Linking verbs also have complements. If a noun follows the linking verb and renames the subject, it is a *predicate nominative*. An adjective following a linking verb and describing the subject is a *predicate adjective*.

Easter is an important [day](#) of remembrance for Christians. *(Day is a predicate nominative: it follows a linking verb and renames the subject.)*

The injured dog’s whimper sounded [weak](#) and [pitiful](#). *(Weak and pitiful are predicate adjectives: they follow a linking verb and describe the subject.)*

Identify the complements: circle the direct objects and put parentheses around the indirect objects. Underline the predicate nominatives and label the predicate adjectives *(pa).*

1. Jennifer tasted the soup hesitantly and then smiled.
2. The United States became an independent nation in 1776.
3. Gloria answered the phone with a cheery “good morning.”
4. Marcie bought her little brother an ice cream cone on the first day of summer vacation.
5. Don looked tired after a long day of baling hay.
6. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the Door.
7. Give Lance your paper by 3:00.
8. John McCain is a senator from Arizona.