

**Action!**  
**(Verbs)**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Practice Using Action Verbs**

**Write the correct tense of the action verb to match the rest of the sentence.**

1. (to write) Yesterday, Samuel \_\_\_\_\_ his name on his test.
2. (to sing) My mother \_\_\_\_\_ in church next Sunday.
3. (to play) Robert can't come over right now because he \_\_\_\_\_ soccer.
4. (to teach) Our teacher \_\_\_\_\_ us how to do that last week.
5. (to drive) Mr. Peterson \_\_\_\_\_ a big truck for a moving company.
6. (to eat) I \_\_\_\_\_ dinner with my best friend's family last night.
7. (to work) Michael and Scott \_\_\_\_\_ at the fast food restaurant.
8. (to study) Tomorrow night, Jessica \_\_\_\_\_ with me at the library.
9. (to watch) My dad and I \_\_\_\_\_ a movie on t.v. right now.
10. (to paint) Last summer, Uncle Ted \_\_\_\_\_ the outside of our house.
11. (to buy) My aunt \_\_\_\_\_ me a game for my birthday next month.
12. (to cook) Whenever my brother \_\_\_\_\_ dinner, he burns it!
13. (to park) Susie's mom \_\_\_\_\_ her car right next to ours this morning.
14. (to look) I \_\_\_\_\_ for my keys for two hours!
15. (to sit) When we went to the football game last night, Joe \_\_\_\_\_ next to me.
16. (to sleep) Jennifer \_\_\_\_\_ late today. She's still not up.
17. (to run) My friend and I \_\_\_\_\_ in a race this weekend.
18. (to clean) Johnathan \_\_\_\_\_ his room each Saturday.

# Verb Tense

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Verbs show an action or a state of being.

The verb tense places the verb in time. The three major tenses verbs can show are **past, present, and future**. Sometimes it helps kids to think of the past as “yesterday,” the present as “today,” and the future as “tomorrow.”

Each verb tense has several options that allow you to be precise about what you mean. Let's look at the verb, “to ride.”



Past	Present	Future
I rode my bicycle. I was riding my bicycle. I had been riding my bicycle.	I ride my bicycle. I am riding my bicycle. I have been riding my bicycle.	I will ride my bicycle. I will be riding my bicycle. I am going to ride my bicycle.

Your ear can probably tell which verb tense “sounds right” in a sentence. Choose the correct tense of the verb to best complete each sentence below.

1. Jim and Susan \_\_\_\_\_ to school tomorrow.  
(went/will go)
2. Sam sits down and \_\_\_\_\_ in his notebook.  
(writes/wrote)
3. The energetic puppy sure \_\_\_\_\_ happy yesterday!  
(is/was)
4. Mrs. Smith \_\_\_\_\_ a song in the talent show next month.  
(sang/will sing)
5. They \_\_\_\_\_ on the phone for three hours last night.  
(talk/talked)
6. My baby sister \_\_\_\_\_ for the first time yesterday!  
(speaks/spoke)
7. Uncle Scott \_\_\_\_\_ me a new video game today.  
(gave/is giving)
8. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ to her students every day.  
(read/reads)

Next to each verb, write “past tense,” “present tense,” or “future tense” .

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 9. plays _____       | 10. were _____       |
| 11. painted _____    | 12. is smiling _____ |
| 13. write _____      | 14. drew _____       |
| 15. will drive _____ | 16. are _____        |

# The Verb To Be

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The verb **to be** is a very important verb in the English language because it helps us explain the condition or characteristics of people and things. In the study of grammar, we say that this verb shows **state of being**. This verb is usually seen as a linking verb, linking the subject of a sentence to an adjective or a noun. It is also used with gerunds to show action happening right now. This verb is very irregular. It is important to know its correct forms in the past, present, and future tenses. Let's take a look.



We **are** happy.  
We **are** students.  
We **were** studying.  
We **are** dancing.

Person	Past	Present	Future
<b>I</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>am</b>	<b>will be</b>
<b>You</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>are</b>	<b>will be</b>
<b>He/She/It</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>will be</b>
<b>We</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>are</b>	<b>will be</b>
<b>You (all)</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>are</b>	<b>will be</b>
<b>They</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>are</b>	<b>will be</b>

**Complete each sentence by writing the correct form of the verb *to be*.**

1. Our teacher, Mrs. Walker, \_\_\_\_\_ absent last Friday.
2. Uncle Bob \_\_\_\_\_ not feeling well today.
3. Scott and Matt \_\_\_\_\_ playing soccer tomorrow.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ happy today.
5. You \_\_\_\_\_ my best friend!
6. Last year, you \_\_\_\_\_ in the hospital for an operation.
7. The weather \_\_\_\_\_ rainy today.
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ eating dinner last night when the doorbell rang.
9. Aunt Virginia \_\_\_\_\_ my favorite aunt.
10. They \_\_\_\_\_ visiting their grandma next month.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Past, Present, and Future Tense Verbs

Draw a circle around the action verb in each sentence. On the line, tell whether the verb is past tense, present test, or future tense.

examples:

Daniel played baseball yesterday.      past tense

He plays baseball everyday.      present tense

We will go to Daniel's baseball game.      future tense



1. Daniel will choose a baseball bat. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He steps up to the plate. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The pitcher tossed the ball. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Daniel will swing hard. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The ball struck the bat. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The ball flies through the air. \_\_\_\_\_
7. It landed over the fence. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Daniel will run around the bases. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The crowd screams loudly. \_\_\_\_\_
10. He will slide into home plate. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Daniel's teammates cheered. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Daniel smiled proudly. \_\_\_\_\_

# Action Verbs & Linking Verbs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Every sentence has to include a subject (someone or something) and a verb (what that person or thing does or is).

Circle the subject and underline the verb in each sentence:

1. Harriet wrote an essay about her vacation to France.
2. The new teacher was a young man from England.
3. The energetic student dropped his pencil on the floor.
4. Bobby forgot his trumpet at home.
5. The children were sad.
6. Mrs. Anderson gave the students a reward.
7. Peter and Steven ran on the field during recess.
8. On the way to lunch, the students stopped at the bathrooms.



The main verb in a sentence shows **action** or a **state of being**. Those that show action are called **action verbs**, and those that show state of being are called **linking verbs**.

The dog ran back home. In this sentence, ran shows an action.  
My pet is a dog. In this sentence, is shows a state of being.

Tell whether each verb is an action verb (A), or a linking verb (L).

- |           |       |            |       |
|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. talk   | _____ | 2. am      | _____ |
| 2. dance  | _____ | 4. visited | _____ |
| 3. worked | _____ | 6. were    | _____ |
| 4. are    | _____ | 8. write   | _____ |
| 5. slept  | _____ | 10. was    | _____ |
| 6. want   | _____ | 12. create | _____ |

## Regular & Irregular Past Tense Verbs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Irregular verbs are verbs that do not follow the rules for what verbs are supposed to look and sound like in the past tense. Regular verbs are easy to find in the past tense because they end with the letters “-ed.” You see them and use them all the time: talked, painted, worked, played, helped, smiled, cooked, turned, looked, wanted, etc.

*Irregular* verbs are sneaky because they don’t follow the “-ed” rule. Some are just a little different, like verbs that end in “y” and the “y” changes to “i” before the “-ed” ending is added. Others take on some very unusual forms that you just have to remember. For example, you may sing in the choir today, but you **sang** in the choir yesterday, not “singed.”



All of the verbs below are in the present tense. Some of them are regular verbs, and some are irregular verbs. Write the correct past tense form of each verb. Circle the Irregular Verbs.

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. bring _____   | 13. are _____    |
| 2. call _____    | 14. visit _____  |
| 3. sell _____    | 15. grow _____   |
| 4. swim _____    | 16. sit _____    |
| 5. create _____  | 17. wish _____   |
| 6. sleep _____   | 18. create _____ |
| 7. stretch _____ | 19. run _____    |
| 8. come _____    | 20. learn _____  |
| 9. serve _____   | 21. fill _____   |
| 10. show _____   | 22. eat _____    |
| 11. teach _____  | 23. drive _____  |
| 12. carry _____  | 24. dance _____  |

## Advanced Linking Verbs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



The simple explanation for a linking verb is that it shows state of being rather than action. An example of this is: Mary is happy.

**Is** is a linking verb that joins **Mary** to an adjective that describes Mary: **happy**. Linking verbs that join subjects and adjectives are the easiest to identify.

However, there are some verbs that can be either action verbs or linking verbs, depending on how they are used. For example, if we say, "Jim tastes the tomato soup," the verb, **tastes**, is an action verb because it is something Jim is doing. But, if we say, "The soup tastes salty," the verb **tastes** is now a linking verb. It joins **soup** with the adjective **salty**, which describes it.



Even more difficult to identify are the linking verbs that join a subject to a noun. For example: He became a teacher. **Became** links the subject, **he**, to the noun, **teacher**. This one is tricky. If you can replace the verb with a form of **to be** (am, are, is, was, etc.) and it makes sense, the verb is acting as a linking verb. In this case, it would be fine to say, "He **is** a teacher."

**Circle the linking verb in each sentence. Underline the adjective or noun that the verb links to the subject. Draw an arrow from the adjective or noun back to the subject. The first one is done for you.**

1. The abandoned puppy looked hungry.
2. Joe and his father are friendly.
3. We were excited by the good news.
4. His feet grew tired by the end of the day.
5. That rock music sounds loud!
6. You are a beautiful girl.
7. They became friends.
8. The kitchen floor seems dirty.
9. Your perfume smells delightful!
10. We were afraid during the thunderstorm.

# Helping Verbs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Many verbs are just a single word, but there are some that have two parts. There is the main verb that tells the action, and another verb, called the **helping verb** that helps the verb be more precise. The helping verb will often be a form of the verb “to be,” or the verb “to have,” or the verb “will” to show action in the future. When there is a helping verb, the main verb is often a **gerund** (a form of the verb that ends in -ing ) or a **past participle** (a form of the verb which often ends in -ed,-n, or -en).

**Underline the complete verb in each sentence. Circle the helping verb.**



1. Jason will play video games tomorrow.



2. The surgeon has operated many times before.



3. My little sister is singing like a rock star.



4. Scott can kick better than anyone on the team.

5. The beautiful sailboat was built in 1985.



6. Sarah is walking her puppy in the park.



7. Jake and his dad are using the computer.



8. Mom will bake special cookies for the party.



9. Tim had given his mother some flowers.



10. The very small girl can ski all by herself.



**Bonus: Write a sentence that uses a helping verb:**

\_\_\_\_\_