

# The Verb

**3a.** A **verb** is a word that expresses action or a state of being.

**EXAMPLES** We **looked** through the telescope and **observed** the comet.  
The night sky **was** cloudy, so we **were** unable to see the comet clearly.

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

**Example 1.** The ducks swam in the lake.

1. A lady threw bread to the ducks.
2. Several birds flew by.
3. The sky was bright blue.
4. We saw a beautiful sea gull.
5. One of the ducks made a strange noise.
6. She called her ducklings to her.
7. We took a photograph of the ducks and birds.
8. My sister identified the duck.
9. This one is a Muscovy.
10. We learned the names of all the ducks.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the verb in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Mary Ellen has three cats.

11. My father traveled to Easter Island last year.
12. She sliced an onion for the stew.
13. Bring your beach towel with you on the picnic.
14. Is that a sandhill crane?
15. Lyle and Tector walked across the village.
16. Michele is a very good singer.
17. The fox watched the chickens from the other side of the fence.
18. Michael spread the blanket over the bed.
19. These horses are the prettiest in the herd.
20. Orange juice dripped all over the floor.

## Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

A **helping verb** helps the **main verb** express action or a state of being. Together, a main verb and at least one helping verb (also called an **auxiliary verb**) make up a **verb phrase**.

**EXAMPLES** I **have read** many of Ernesto Galarza's poems  
**Have you read** any of his poems?

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the helping verb(s) and two lines under the main verb.

**Example 1.** Ernesto Galarza was born in Mexico.

1. When did the Galarza family move to Sacramento, California?
2. Other Mexican families had also immigrated to the United States.
3. Many of them had come to the United States for economic reasons.
4. In what year did Galarza publish his first book?
5. Many people have been enjoying his works for years.
6. Many are reading his works in the original Spanish.
7. Galarza has written about the struggles of farmworkers.
8. You have probably read some of his poetry.
9. Did you read the poetry in Spanish or in English?
10. You may like his poem about Mother Nature.
11. It is translated as "Copy from an Old Master."
12. Most young readers do enjoy his poem about the traffic light.
13. Will we be reading any of his poems in class this year?
14. Your teacher may recommend his book *Short Poems for Youngsters*.
15. This collection was published in 1971.
16. You will learn valuable lessons from these poems.
17. Galarza has been called the Father Goose of Mexican children.
18. Which poem should we read first?
19. Galarza's autobiographical work is titled *Barrio Boy*.
20. Does your literature book contain excerpts from *Barrio Boy*?

## Action Verbs

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

**EXAMPLES** Carlos **painted** this picture from a snapshot he **had taken**. [physical activities]  
His friends **think** that he **should consider** a career in art. [mental activities]

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, underline the action verb.

**Example 1.** The tourists visited the large wildlife preserve.

1. Dmitri liked the cougar exhibit at the wildlife preserve.
2. A rescue team found two orphaned cougars in the mountains.
3. The team treated the cougars for injuries.
4. They brought the young cougars to the wildlife preserve.
5. The wildlife preserve staff members raised the cougars to adulthood.
6. They named the cougars Wolfgang and Julianna.
7. Next year the wildlife preserve will provide mates for the brother and sister pair.
8. The cougars enjoy healthy lives with good care.
9. Dmitri took a few photographs of the magnificent cats.
10. Months later, Dmitri often remembered the cougar pair.

**EXERCISE B** On the line provided, write an appropriate action verb to complete each sentence.

**Example 1.** Kim \_\_\_\_\_ *mowed* \_\_\_\_\_ the lawn to earn her allowance.

11. Steve \_\_\_\_\_ the new song on the radio.
12. A runner from Nigeria \_\_\_\_\_ the marathon this weekend.
13. Neither of the boys \_\_\_\_\_ the answer to the question.
14. The secretary \_\_\_\_\_ a bag lunch to work.
15. Another meteor \_\_\_\_\_ across the sky.