

Linking Verbs

A **linking verb** connects the subject to a word or word group that identifies or describes the subject. The noun, pronoun, or adjective that is connected to the subject by a linking verb completes the meaning of the verb.

EXAMPLES Judy Blume **is** a writer. [Judy Blume = writer]

Her books **remain** popular among young readers. [popular books]

Some verbs may be used as linking verbs or as action verbs.

LINKING The room **smelled** smoky.

ACTION We **smelled** smoke in the room.

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the linking verb and two lines under the words that the verb connects.

Example 1. The pilot remained calm.

1. Beryl Markham was a famous pilot.
2. She stayed alert on many difficult and long flights.
3. Her accomplishments seem remarkable to many people.
4. Markham became the first woman to fly nonstop from England to America.
5. The task was difficult because of strong opposing winds.
6. A new club in 1929 was the Ninety-Nines.
7. Ninety-nine was the number of its original members.
8. Members were female pilots only.
9. The club remains active today.
10. Female pilots are more common now than many years ago.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined verb by writing above it *LV* for *linking verb* or *AV* for *action verb*.

Examples 1. Mr. Singh ^{AV}looked in the cabinet for a serving dish.

2. The vegetable curry ^{LV}looked tasty.

11. Mr. Singh tasted the vegetable curry.
12. The stew tasted deliciously spicy.
13. Mr. Singh grew many of the vegetables in his backyard.
14. He grew fond of curry dishes when he lived in India.
15. Mr. Singh's recipe for vegetable curry remains his secret.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

A **transitive verb** is a verb that expresses an action directed toward a person, place, thing, or idea. Words that receive the action of transitive verbs are called **objects**. An **intransitive verb** expresses action (or tells something about the subject) without the action passing to a receiver.

TRANSITIVE She **began** her speech. [The object of the transitive verb *began* is *speech*.]

INTRANSITIVE The train **arrived** on time.

A verb may be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another.

TRANSITIVE Marcia **sings** two solos in the play. [The object is solos.]

INTRANSITIVE Marcia **sings** in the school's chorus. [no object]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined verb by writing above it *TR* for *transitive* or *IN* for *intransitive*. Then, for each transitive verb, circle its object.

Example 1. No one in the accident ^{*TR*} suffered any injuries

1. My watch stopped at 8:22.
2. Marguerite called the meeting to order.
3. The trainer slowly walked toward the tiger.
4. The trainer slowly approached the tiger.
5. Bradley and Chloe successfully flew the box kite.
6. During winter break we traveled to Orlando, Florida.
7. By the time we arrived, the concert had already begun.
8. By the time we arrived, the band had already begun the concert.
9. After a few minutes, the teakettle whistled.
10. Yolanda whistled a tune from the early 1990s.
11. The family gave its fair share to the charity.
12. The family gave generously to the charity.
13. For a long while the tree did not grow.
14. Did Marvin grow a mustache?
15. Some of the guests left early.
16. Some of the guests left the party early.
17. The nation's economy has improved in recent years.
18. What has improved the nation's economy?
19. Franklin Roosevelt served as President of the United States for more than twelve years.
20. President Franklin Roosevelt served more terms than any other President.