

The verb *be* is almost always a state-of-being verb when it is the main verb in a sentence.

EXAMPLES The turkey **is** golden brown.
The turkey **is** delicious.

Many other state-of-being verbs can be used as action verbs.

EXAMPLES Jamie **tasted** the cranberry sauce.
(action verb)
The cranberry sauce **tasted** sweet.
(state-of-being verb)

In the first sentence, *tasted* expresses action. Jamie did something. In the second sentence, *tasted* expresses a state of being. The condition of the cranberry sauce was sweet.

Here are examples of the different uses of several state-of-being verbs.

EXAMPLES **APPEAR**
action: to come into view; to become visible
Jack **appeared** suddenly.
The actor **appeared** on the stage.
being: to seem; to look
They **appear** friendly.
Fred **appears** taller than Mike.

EXAMPLES**FEEL**

action: to touch; to think or believe

She **felt** the soft blanket.

I **feel** that you are right.

being: to be aware of a physical or mental sensation

I **feel** cold.

Denny **feels** happy.

GROW

action: to cause to grow; to cultivate

I **grew** tomatoes in my garden.

The farmer **grows** corn.

being: to come into existence; to spring up

Don **grew** two inches this year.

The day **grew** cold.

SMELL

action: to catch the scent or odor of something

I could **smell** the fresh mountain air.

I **smell** popcorn.

being: to have a certain scent or odor

The bread **smells** delicious.

The skunk **smells** awful.

Activity A Write whether the verb in bold in each of these sentences expresses *action* or a *state of being*.

- 1) She could **smell** the smoke in the air.
- 2) The warm cake **smelled** inviting.
- 3) The oven **felt** too hot.

appear	feel	grow	look
taste	get	keep	smell

Activity B Write two sentences for each of these verbs on your paper. In the first sentence, use the verb as an action verb. In the second sentence, use the verb as a state-of-being verb.

EXAMPLES

State-of-being verb: They **remained** friends.
 Action verb: They **were** friends.
 State-of-being verb: He **was** a new job.
 Action verb: He **got** a new job.
 State-of-being verb: (not possible)

If you are not sure whether a verb is a state-of-being verb, remember to try this test. Substitute a form of the verb *be* or *seem* for the verb. If the meaning of the sentence is almost the same, the verb is a state-of-being verb. You cannot substitute a form of *be* for an action verb.

- 4) Mary **felt** a hole in her pocket.
- 5) Joe **grows** orange trees in Arizona.
- 6) She **appeared** to have a good time.
- 7) She **has grown** as tall as I.
- 8) Our cat **smells** his food before he tastes it.
- 9) Brad **felt** wonderful about his perfect score.
- 10) Nora suddenly **appeared** at the party.

Activity C Remember that a state-of-being verb does not tell what the subject is doing. It does not express action. Write on your paper whether each verb in bold in these sentences expresses *action* or a *state of being*.

- 1) Their whole family **is** healthy.
- 2) Mrs. Jones **is reading** a book.
- 3) Ron **is** asleep on the sofa.
- 4) He **seems** tired this evening!
- 5) Mr. Jones **stays** awake.
- 6) He **is eating** an apple.
- 7) He **likes** a snack in the evening.
- 8) Jamie **appears** very busy.
- 9) She **must be doing** homework.
- 10) The television **is** loud.

Activity D Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper. Beside each verb or verb phrase, write whether it expresses *action* or a *state of being*.

Examples She tasted the soup. **tasted—action**
Dinner will be ready soon. **will be—state of being**

- 1) Smell these beautiful flowers.
- 2) The grass seems greener this time of year.
- 3) Food always tastes better at the beach.
- 4) That cute little puppy in the window is watching us.
- 5) This has been a very dry summer.
- 6) The plants in our garden became yellow and shriveled.
- 7) I am saving for a new CD player.
- 8) At this time tomorrow, we will be hiking up a mountain.
- 9) Did you taste the vegetable pizza?
- 10) How were you feeling yesterday?

Lesson 2 Review

Part A Write whether the bold verb in these sentences expresses *action* or a *state of being*.

- 1) Howard finally **appeared**.
- 2) He **appears** strong and healthy.
- 3) I **felt** the soft cloth.
- 4) The cloth **felt** soft to me.
- 5) She **looked** everywhere for her cat.
- 6) Her cat **looked** frightened.
- 7) The oak tree **grew** eight feet tall.
- 8) I **grow** radishes in my garden every year.

Part B Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper. Beside each verb or verb phrase, write whether it expresses *action* or a *state of being*.

- 1) Mr. Klein was looking for the newspaper.
- 2) He usually keeps it on the coffee table.
- 3) That paper gets harder to find every day.
- 4) Suddenly the newspaper appeared!
- 5) The newspaper appeared wrinkled.
- 6) It also looked torn.
- 7) "Who got this paper before me?"
- 8) Mr. Klein grew thoughtful for a moment.
- 9) He spotted the dog under the table.
- 10) "Some dogs are frisky."
- 11) Then he smiled.
- 12) The newspaper was not damaged that much.
- 13) He remained in his chair with his newspaper for a while.
- 14) He got the news of the day.