

The Action Verb

At home, in the workplace, and in the community, you are often busy moving about and doing things. Exercising, working, eating, and thinking are just a few examples of the actions you do every day. When you talk or write about what you have done or seen, you use words that show action.

A verb is a word that expresses action or a state of being. An action verb is a word that expresses either physical or mental action.

In Chapter 4, you will learn about action verbs. Each lesson in the chapter focuses on the correct use and form of action verbs in sentences.

Goals for Learning

- ▶ To identify verbs and verb phrases in sentences
- ▶ To identify the correct form of verbs in sentences
- ▶ To recognize active and passive verbs

Action verb

A word that expresses physical or mental action in the past, present, or future.

An **action verb** is a word that expresses the action in a sentence. The verb tells what someone or something does, did, or will do. Find the verb in a sentence by asking yourself two questions:

1. Who or what is doing something? (subject)
2. What are they doing? (verb)

EXAMPLE

Every morning, Mr. Okada **reads** the newspaper.

Who is doing something? *Mr. Okada* (subject)

What does he do? *reads* (verb)

A sentence can have more than one verb.

EXAMPLE

Donna **washed** and **wiped** the dishes after breakfast.

She **opened** her book and **began** her homework.

Some verbs express mental action, which cannot be seen.

EXAMPLE

Mr. Okada **likes** his job.

Donna **thinks** about her test.

Activity A Write the verbs in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Mr. Okada parked his car.
- 2) Several of his friends waved to him.
- 3) He likes all the people at the office.
- 4) Pam called her boss.
- 5) She reminded him about the meeting.

Activity B List the subjects and verbs in these sentences. Write *S* beside the subject and *V* beside the verb.

Example The secretary answers the telephone.
secretary—S answers—V

- 1) In the office everyone works hard.
- 2) Some people sort mail.
- 3) Others load it on trucks.
- 4) The trucks haul the mail to other places.
- 5) Letter carriers deliver mail to homes and offices.
- 6) Mrs. Davis works in an office.
- 7) She prepares the payroll.
- 8) Her assistant enters the information into a computer.
- 9) The computer prints the checks.

Activity C Find the verb or verbs in each sentence. List them on your own paper.

Examples The employees went to their desks and worked.
went, worked

- 1) Mr. Torres rode his bike to work on Tuesday.
- 2) He drank some juice and ate a bagel.
- 3) The telephone rang three times and then stopped.
- 4) His boss called back a few minutes later.
- 5) Mr. Torres wondered about the new client, Ms. Peters.
- 6) He sat in the meeting room and waited for everyone.
- 7) Ms. Peters and her assistant arrived on time.
- 8) They all shook hands and said, "Hello."

Verb phrase

A main verb and one or more helping verbs.

A **verb phrase** is made up of more than one verb. A verb phrase contains a main verb and one or more helping verbs. The helping verbs *help* the main verb to show action.

EXAMPLES

Mr. Torres **has poured** his juice.

poured—main verb *has*—helping verb

Annie **should have come** with us.

come—main verb *should have*—helping verbs

Activity D Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Mrs. Stamos had spoken to Mr. Franklin.
- 2) Later, he thought about their talk.
- 3) He should have known about the problem sooner.
- 4) They could have helped each other.
- 5) Mr. Franklin has announced a new policy.
- 6) From now on, workers will meet with their supervisors once a week.
- 7) All of the employees support the new policy.

Activity E Use each verb or verb phrase below in a sentence. Write the sentences on your paper. Underline each subject once and each verb or verb phrase twice.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) accept | 6) could have been |
| 2) balance | 7) examine |
| 3) will comfort | 8) write |
| 4) contain | 9) should remember |
| 5) lift | 10) may think |

Lesson 1 Review

Part A Write the verbs in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Many different people work at the post office.
- 2) The public appreciates their efforts.
- 3) Letters and packages stream into the post office all day and night.
- 4) Letter carriers load the mail into sacks and deliver it.
- 5) Mail comes to the post office on trucks.
- 6) Airplanes also carry mail across the country and the world.
- 7) Millions of pieces of mail travel from place to place.
- 8) At the post office, mail handlers unload mail.
- 9) In smaller post offices, the workers sort the mail.
- 10) Machines perform this job in big cities.

Part B Write the verb or verb phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

Example Don has gone to the store.

has gone

- 1) The newspaper arrived at six o'clock every day.
- 2) Mrs. Turner heard a thud at the front door.
- 3) She opened the door.
- 4) Then she got the paper.
- 5) She carried it into the kitchen.
- 6) Mr. Turner scrambled the eggs and put bread into the toaster.
- 7) He smiled at his wife.
- 8) She had set the table and had poured their juice.
- 9) They sat and read the paper.
- 10) Mr. and Mrs. Turner started every day the same way.
- 11) By six-thirty, they had eaten and had washed the dishes.
- 12) Then they both left for work.
- 13) He took the bus to his job downtown.
- 14) She drove the car to her office.
- 15) Each of them looks forward to the weekend.

Tense

The time that the verb expresses in a sentence.

The verb in a sentence expresses **tense**, or time. Verbs use endings, helping verbs, or both to express tense.

Every verb has an infinitive form which is *to* plus the present tense of the verb. Verbs can express present, past, and future tense. Form the past tense by adding *-ed* to the present tense. Form the future tense by using the helping verb *will* or *shall*.

EXAMPLES

Infinitive:	to fish
Present tense:	I fish in that lake all summer. (Shows an action done in the present time.)
Past tense:	I fished in that lake last summer. (Shows an action done in the past.)
Future tense:	I will fish in that lake next summer. (Shows an action that will be done in the future.)

Activity A The verb in each of these sentences is in bold. Write the tense of the verb on your paper.

- 1) The Wilson Wildcats **will play** their first football game on Saturday.
- 2) The team **practices** every day.
- 3) They **wondered** about their opponents.
- 4) The coach **called** the team together.
- 5) He **talked** to them about the game plan.
- 6) “I **believe** in you guys.”
- 7) The team **knows** the plan.
- 8) They **want** a victory on Saturday.
- 9) They **will do** their very best.

Add *-s* or *-es* to the present tense of the verb if the subject is singular.

EXAMPLES

Singular subject: James **practices** every day.

Plural subject: The players **practice** every day.

Remember: collective nouns (names of groups acting as one) are singular. Some indefinite pronouns, such as *everyone*, are also singular.

EXAMPLES

Singular subject: The team **practices** after school.

Plural subject: Both teams **practice** after school.

Singular subject: Everyone **wants** a victory.

Activity B Write the verb that should appear in each sentence to make it correct.

- 1) James (hope, hopes) for a victory.
- 2) He (play, plays) tackle on the team.
- 3) Greg and Lorenzo both (play, plays) quarterback.
- 4) The coach (choose, chooses) the quarterback for each game.
- 5) Adam (catch, catches) every pass during practice.
- 6) All of them (go, goes) to practice every day.
- 7) Everyone (look, looks) forward to the games.
- 8) The whole team (work, works) hard.

Present perfect

The verb tense that shows an action started in the past and continuing up to the present.

The three perfect tenses are **present perfect**, **past perfect**, and **future perfect**. They are formed by using the helping verb *have*.

EXAMPLES

Present perfect: James **has tackled** his opponent many times.

(Shows an action that started in the past and continues up to the present. This action is likely to happen again.)

Past perfect: James **had tackled** him before the whistle blew.

(Shows that one action was completed before another past action began.)

Future perfect: In a few minutes, our team **will have won** the game.

(Shows an action that will be completed before a certain time in the future.)

Past perfect

The verb tense that shows one action completed before another past action.

Future perfect

The verb tense that shows an action that will be completed before a certain time in the future.

Regular verbs form their past tense by adding *-ed* to the present tense. Irregular verbs form their past tense in different ways. *Have* is an irregular verb.

You need to know the different forms of *have* to form the perfect tenses of verbs.

(To) Have

Present tense	(singular)	James has the football now.
	(plural)	They have nine points.
Past tense		The team had the lead.
Future tense		The team will have a victory.
Present perfect	(singular)	He has had the ball three times.
	(plural)	They have had the ball most of the game.
Past perfect		When the quarter ended, they had had enough.
Future perfect		In one week, we shall have had a winning season.

The verb *have* can be a main verb or a helping verb.

EXAMPLES

Have as a main verb: I **have** a good team.
(*have* used alone)

Have as a helping verb: I **have scored** a touchdown.
(*have* used with the verb *scored*)

Activity C Write the verb that should appear in each sentence to make it correct.

- 1) The Wilson Wildcats (has, have) the football.
- 2) The team (has, have) scored a touchdown.
- 3) The Wildcats have (have, had) the ball for most of the quarter.
- 4) They will (has, have) given the other team few chances.
- 5) We soon will (have, had) earned the victory.

Activity D Decide whether *have* is the main verb or the helping verb in each sentence. Write your answers on your paper.

- 1) The quarterback has worked hard today.
- 2) He has thrown several good passes.
- 3) Hector has a good record so far.
- 4) We have one win and no losses.
- 5) The coach has expressed high hopes for the rest of the season.

Activity E Write the present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect tenses of the verbs below in sentences on your paper. Underline the verb in each sentence.

Example jump

He has jumped. He had jumped. He will have jumped.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1) act | 6) offer |
| 2) discuss | 7) open |
| 3) improve | 8) pass |
| 4) lock | 9) yell |
| 5) move | 10) shout |

Activity F Write all six tenses of the verbs below in sentences on your paper. Use the third person singular (he, she, or it). Underline the verb in each sentence.

Example	whisper
present:	She <u>whispers</u> .
past:	She <u>whispered</u> .
future:	She <u>will whisper</u> .
present perfect:	She <u>has whispered</u> .
past perfect:	She <u>had whispered</u> .
future perfect:	She <u>will have whispered</u> .

- 1) walk
- 2) work
- 3) fish
- 4) listen
- 5) roar