

# VERBS

## Lesson 1

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

Verbs are the most important words in a sentence. Verbs are the first of the eight parts of speech that we will be studying. Most verbs are action words, but a few verbs indicate state of being or existence. The first lessons will be about verbs, and how they are recognized and used.

Find the verbs in the following sentences. They are action verbs.

The wolf ran across the sand.

Sit down.

The dog barked at the man.

## Lesson 2

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

Find the verbs in these sentences. These verbs will be state of being verbs.

My uncle is a pilot.

The pie looks good.

You seem upset.

## Lesson 3

### Parts of Speech - Verbs

Pick out the verbs in these sentences and tell whether they are action verbs or linking verbs.

Suddenly someone sneezed loudly.

There are holes in my shirt.

He appears happy.

The image appeared in the mirror.

#### **Lesson 4**

##### Parts of Speech - Verbs

Sometimes a verb can be more than one word. When a verb is more than one word, it is called a verb phrase. Verb phrases can be two, three, or four words. Verb phrases are made by using auxiliary or helping verbs. What are the verb phrases in these sentences?

You are going to Seattle.

You have been resting too much.

We must be early.

I will be finished shortly.

#### **Lesson 5**

##### Parts of Speech - Verbs

Some of the helping verbs can be used alone as the main verb. *Is, am, are, was, and were* can be used alone as linking or state of being verbs. *Has, have, had, do, does, and did* always show action when used alone. *Be, being, and been* can be used with other verbs either to show action or state of being. The other helping verbs cannot be used alone but only as helping verbs.

Find the verb or verb phrases in these sentences.

She has too many friends.

You do beautiful work.

I was in Canada last week.

You are being very stubborn.

### **Quiz for Lessons 1-5**

List the verbs or verb phrases in the sentences, and tell whether they are action verbs or state of being verbs. For extra credit, find the helping verbs.

1. Jim plays basketball.
2. They will return on the airplane.
3. Badger is a funny dog.
4. I have been here a long time.
5. I should have been playing the drum.
6. Go home.

**ANSWERS**

**1 - Answer:**

The verbs in the sentences are *ran*, *sit*, and *barked*. All three verbs are action verbs since they show action. Action verbs are the most common verbs.

**2 - Answer:**

The verbs in the sentences are *is*, *looks*, and *seem*. These verbs are state of being or linking verbs. Some common linking verbs are *is*, *am*, *are*, *was*, *were*, *be*, *being*, *been*, *seem*, *look*, *feel*, and *become*. They do not show action. They just show that something exists.

**3 Answer:**

The verbs are *sneezed*, *are*, *appears*, and *appeared*. *Sneezed* and *appeared* are action verbs. *Are* and *appears* are linking or state of being verbs. Some verbs like *appear* can be either action or linking verbs. It depends on whether it shows action or not. *Appears* above is like saying *seems* which shows no action while *appeared* above shows the action of the *image*.

**4 - Answer:**

The verb phrases are *are going*, *have been resting*, *must be*, and *will be finished*. These sentences all have what are called auxiliary or helping verbs. I will refer to them as helping verbs. There are twenty-three (23) helping verbs that should be memorized since they are used so often. If you will memorize them, it will make knowing and understanding verbs much easier. They are usually grouped in the following five groups:

Group 1: *is*, *am*, *are*, *was*, *were*, *be*, *being*, *been*

Group 2: *has*, *have*, *had*

Group 3: *do*, *does*, *did*

Group 4: *shall*, *will*, *should*, *would*

Group 5: *may*, *might*, *must*, *can*, *could*

## 5 - Answer:

The verb and verb phrases were *has*, *do*, *was*, and *are being*. *Has* and *do* are action verbs, and *was* and *are being* are state of being verbs.

## QUIZ Answers:

1. plays - action
2. will return - action
3. is - linking or state of being
4. have been - state of being
5. should have been playing - action
6. go - action

The helping verbs are *will*, *have*, *should*, *have*, and *been*. The *been* in sentence 4 is not a helping verb because it is the main verb. The last verb in a verb phrase is always the main verb.