Verbs

A verb tells about an action or a state of being. There are three types of verbs: action, linking, and auxiliary.

Action Verbs

An action verb expresses action. It tells what a person or a thing does.

1. Muskrats swim in marshes.
2. We built a fantastic sandcastle.

To find out whether a word is an action verb, ask yourself whether that word expresses something you can do. Can you *muskrat?* No! Can you *marsh?* No. But can you *swim?* Yes—swim is an action verb.

Linking Verbs

A linking verb links the subject of the sentence with information about it. Sometimes linking verbs are called "state-of-being verbs."

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. Jeremy is tired.
2. This apple tastes so sweet.

In the first sentence, *is* links *Jeremy* to information about him-the fact that he is tired. That is his state of being.

In the second sentence, *tastes* links *apple* to information about it—its sweetness. Did you think *taste* was an action verb? Well, it is—when the subject is doing the tasting. But here, the apple isn't doing any tasting. The apple itself tastes sweet. That is its state of being.

Auxiliary Verbs

An auxiliary verb goes with another verb. Sometimes auxiliary verbs are called "helping verbs" because they introduce or "help out" the main verb.

1. Ms. Opalenik is reading our stories.
2. We should dig for buried treasure.

In the first sentence, the auxiliary verb, *is,* helps out the main verb, *reading,* by telling when the action is taking place—right now.

In the second sentence, the auxiliary verb, *should,* helps out the main verb, *dig,* by telling about its importance—digging must be important, if it is something that *should* happen.

*Be, have,* and *do* are the most common auxiliary verbs. Other common auxiliary verbs include *can, could, should, would, may, might,* and *must.*