

Name _____

Action and Linking Verbs

A **verb** is the main word in the predicate of a sentence. The verb tells what the subject of the sentence is or does. An **action verb** tells what the subject does. A **linking verb** links, or joins, the subject with a word or words in the predicate that tell what the subject is or is like. Linking verbs are forms of *be*, such as *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, and *were*. *Become*, *seem*, *appear*, *feel*, *taste*, *smell*, and *look* can be linking verbs.

Action Verbs Grandma scrubs the wooden floor. We pump water.

Linking Verbs The bread smells wonderful. He is hungry.

- A **predicate nominative** is a noun or pronoun that follows a linking verb and identifies or explains the subject: *Sarah's brother was the leader on his team.*

Directions Write *A* if the underlined word is an action verb. Write *L* if the underlined word is a linking verb. Write *PN* if the underlined word is a predicate nominative.

1. The apples were crunchy. _____
2. We serve the bread with fresh butter. _____
3. Erika is their neighbor. _____
4. Hot coals heat the iron. _____
5. Erika became impatient with the boys. _____

Directions Underline each action verb. Circle each linking verb.

6. We passed the hot bread around the table.
7. Matthew is hungry, and supper smells delicious.
8. Farmers used every part of the corn plant.
9. Amy feels sad about the death of the chicken.
10. Jay feels the hot sun on his face.
11. Erika was ready for her chores.
12. The boys worked steadily until sunset.
13. The stranger at the farm looked suspicious.
14. The oven seemed hot enough, so Sarah shoved the bread in.



Home Activity Your child learned about action and linking verbs. Describe what a family member looks like and does. Say the sentences slowly and have your child identify the action and linking verbs you use.

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Directions Add your own action verb to complete each sentence. Write the sentence on the lines.

1. Women _____ the clothes with homemade soap.

2. Amanda _____ to school because there were no buses.

3. The girls _____ long hours in the hot kitchen.

4. Alex _____ his finger when he touched the hot metal.

5. The blacksmith's apprentice _____ the trade by watching and practicing.

Directions What do you think it was like to live in the 1800s? Write three sentences that describe what life was like. Use a linking verb in one sentence. Use action verbs in the other two sentences.

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____



Home Activity Your child learned how to use action and linking verbs in writing. Have your child write four sentences about an event at school. Ask your child to use two action verbs and two linking verbs in the sentences.

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Directions Mark the letter of the word that is an action verb.

- Lenora added milk to the batter because it was too thick.
 - Lenora
 - looked
 - batter
 - added
- A diligent farmer grows enough food for his whole family.
 - grows
 - enough
 - family
 - whole
- The boy sheared the wool from the sheep.
 - sheared
 - boy
 - wool
 - sheep
- The girls milked the cows for cheese, cream, and butter.
 - girls
 - cows
 - milked
 - for

Directions Mark the letter of the word that is a linking verb.

- The blacksmith's shop was noisy and hot.
 - noisy
 - shop
 - and
 - was
- We walked into the cellar, and the air smelled musty.
 - walked
 - smelled
 - into
 - musty
- The girls feel silly in bonnets and long dresses.
 - silly
 - girls
 - feel
 - bonnets
- Are Darlene and Mary ready for school?
 - Are
 - ready
 - school
 - for
- Krista's chores were not easy, but she worked hard.
 - worked
 - but
 - were
 - easy
- The cornstalks looked rough, so Jason wore gloves.
 - looked
 - wore
 - stalks
 - so



Home Activity Your child prepared for taking tests on action and linking verbs. Have your child look through a magazine or newspaper article and circle linking verbs and underline action verbs.

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Directions Write *A* if the underlined verb is an action verb. Write *L* if the underlined verb is a linking verb. Write *PN* if the underlined word is a predicate nominative.

1. The linens smelled fresh. _____
2. Who mowed the lawn? _____
3. Cook the green beans for 15 minutes. _____
4. I am tired of waking up at dawn. _____
5. Matthew became captain of the team. _____
6. Which apples taste sweetest? _____
7. Emily is the best cook. _____
8. The workers sliced the potatoes. _____

Directions Circle *A* if the verb is an action verb. Circle *L* if it is a linking verb.

9. The boys swam in the river. A L
10. Nights seemed longer and darker. A L
11. The girls worked on their sewing. A L
12. The day was long and hard. A L
13. Father talked quietly to the horses. A L
14. Martha created dolls from corncobs. A L
15. Aunt Perley's face looked tired and pale. A L
16. The children played checkers before bed. A L
17. The pumpkin pie smells spicy. A L
18. Sarah feels awkward in a dress and bloomers. A L
19. John raced to the house. A L
20. They were pleased with their work. A L



Home Activity Your child reviewed action and linking verbs. Have your child make a chart with the headings *Action* and *Linking*, scan a page of a favorite book, and see how many action and linking verbs he or she can find to write on the chart.