

Action and Linking Verbs

The main word in the predicate of a sentence is a verb. Words that show actions are called **action verbs**. Most verbs show actions you can see. Some verbs, such as *think* and *understand*, show actions you cannot see.

Action Verbs Mr. Bailey hit a stranger with his truck.
He regretted the accident.

Linking verbs do not show actions. They tell what the subject is or what the subject is like. Common linking verbs are forms of the verb *to be*, such as *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, and *were*. Verbs such as *seem*, *appear*, *become*, and *feel* can also be linking verbs.

Linking Verbs The man was alive.
He seemed very strange.

Directions Write the verb in each sentence.

1. *The Stranger* is an unusual story. _____
2. It describes a very odd event. _____
3. The Bailey family lives on a farm. _____
4. Mr. Bailey struck a man with his truck. _____
5. He brought the man home. _____
6. The stranger was silent. _____
7. He appeared completely healthy. _____
8. The stranger changed the weather. _____
9. He became very unhappy. _____
10. Stories like this are fantasies. _____

Directions Underline action verbs. Circle linking verbs.

11. Animals trusted the strange man.
12. The stranger watched the geese in the sky.
13. He seemed sad.
14. On the last day, the stranger hugged everyone in the family.
15. The Baileys were very kind to him.

