

ACTION OR LINKING? TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF LINKING VERBS

Linking verbs are *intransitive, state of being verbs* without a direct object. Instead of telling what the subject *does*, the linking verb *links* the subject to words that describe or explain more about the subject. They do not show action. They tell what the subject *is, was* or *will be*.

Linking verbs are followed by nouns, pronouns or adjectives. These nouns are called **predicate nouns**. The adjectives are called **predicate adjectives**. They tell us more about the subject.

Sometimes linking verbs can also be action verbs. It depends on how the verb is used in a sentence. If the verb is an *action* verb, it will be followed by a *direct object*. If the verb is a *linking* verb, it will be followed by a *predicate noun* or *predicate adjective*. For example:

Action verb - Jacob smelled a skunk.

Linking verb – That skunk smells stinky.

In the first sentence you can ask yourself the question – What did Jacob smell? A skunk. *Skunk* is the *direct object*. It receives the *action* of the *verb* – smelled.

In the second sentence if you ask the question – What did the skunk smell? – it wouldn't make sense. Instead, the word *stinky* is a *predicate adjective* that describes the skunk. What smells? A *stinky skunk*.

A good way to find out if a verb is an action verb or a linking verb is to ask a question. Is the subject of the sentence *doing* the action? If the answer is no, then the verb is a linking verb.

Violet looked at the cake. Looked is an action verb.

Violet *does* the action. She *looked* at the cake.

Violet looks pretty tonight. Looks is a linking verb.

Violet *does not* do the action. Instead the verb tells more about the subject, Violet. It tells the reader how she *looks* – pretty. Pretty is a predicate adjective that describes Violet. Violet does not look *at* pretty.

Violet *is* pretty.

ACTION OR LINKING?
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF LINKING VERBS Questions

A. Are the underlined verbs linking or action? If the verbs are action, write A on the blank line. If the verbs are linking, write L on the blank line. Hint: Remember to look for direct objects. Or ask yourself the question – Is the subject doing the action?

1. _____ Tom built a raft yesterday.
2. _____ Jacob seems tired today.
3. _____ Doesn't Chad look pale?
4. _____ That milk is sour.
5. _____ My carrots taste too salty.
6. _____ Come look at this kitten!
7. _____ Brenda feels sick.
8. _____ Will Martha become the head cheerleader?
9. _____ The local newspaper printed a story about Jenny.
10. _____ My brother plays baseball every Saturday.

B. Write two sentences using the verb – grow. Write the first sentence using grow as an action verb. Write the second sentence using grow as a linking verb. Remember grow is an irregular verb – use either grow, grew or grown in your sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

Name _____

Date _____

**ACTION OR LINKING?
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF LINKING VERBS Answers**

A

1. __A__ Tom built a raft yesterday.
2. __L__ Jacob seems tired today.
3. __L__ Doesn't Chad look pale?
4. __L__ That milk is sour.
5. __L__ My carrots taste too salty.
6. __A__ Come look at this kitten!
7. __L__ Brenda feels sick.
8. __L__ Will Martha become the head cheerleader?
9. __A__ The local newspaper printed a story about Jenny.
10. __A__ My brother plays baseball every Saturday.

B. Answers will vary.