LINKS IN A CHAIN
LEARNING ABOUT LINKING VERBS

**Action verbs** show actions – run, skip, jump, hop, dream, or hope. **State of being verbs** do not show action but a state of being – am, is, are, was, seem or feel.

Carol *skipped* down the street.  Action verb  
Carol *seems* happy today.  State of being verb

**Transitive verbs** are *action verbs* that *take* a direct object or sometimes an indirect object.  
**Intransitive verbs** are *action verbs* that do *not* take a direct object.

Carol *played* the banjo at our reunion.  
*Played* is used as a *transitive verb* because there is a *direct object* – banjo. 
Carol *played* cheerfully.  
*Played* is used as an *intransitive verb* here because there is no direct object. Instead we are told how Carol played – *cheerfully*.

**Linking verbs** are *intransitive, state of being verbs* without a direct object. Instead, a linking verb *links* the subject of the sentence with more information about who are what the subject *is*. Linking verbs 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.

Carol *became* the band leader.  
*Became* is the verb or predicate of the sentence.  
It links the subject – Carol – to –*band leader*. The verb *became* links us to *more information* about Carol. It helps the sentence make sense.  
Band leader is a *predicate noun*.  It describes or explains more about Carol.
LINKS IN A CHAIN
LEARNING ABOUT LINKING VERBS (Cont’d)

Carol appears tired tonight.
Appears is the verb or predicate of the subject.
Tired is a predicate adjective which explains how Carol feels.
Appears links us to more information about Carol.

Forms of the verb – to be – are the most common linking verbs. Verbs such as: am, are, is, was, were, be, being or been.

Other common linking verbs are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appear</td>
<td>Become</td>
<td>Feel</td>
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<td>Grow</td>
<td>Look</td>
<td>Remain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seem</td>
<td>Smell</td>
<td>Sound</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stay</td>
<td>Taste</td>
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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 - Mary Ann looked at my paper.
Linking verb – Mary Ann looks beautiful in that dress.
A. Do you remember what you’ve learned about linking verbs? Fill in the correct answer on the lines below.

1. ______________________ _______verbs show actions – run, skip, jump, hop, dream, or hope.

2. ______________________ verbs do not show action but a state of being – am, is, are, was, seem or feel.

3. ______________________verbs are action verbs that take a direct object or sometimes an indirect object.

4. ______________________verbs are action verbs that do not take a direct object.

5. ______________________verbs are intransitive, state of being verbs without a direct object.

6. ______________________verbs are followed by nouns, pronouns or adjectives.

7. These nouns are called ________________________________.

8. These adjectives are called ________________________________.

9. What verb forms are the most common linking verbs? ____________.

10. Write one other common linking verb on the line. ______________.
B. **Read the sentences below. Underline the linking verb in each sentence.**

1. Susan became president of her class.
2. John and Mark were my best friends.
3. Mrs. Brown was the best teacher I ever had.
4. That soup smells rotten!
5. Brian grows taller every year.
6. I feel sleepy tonight.
7. Tracy’s hair looks funny this morning.
8. Our class is quiet today.
10. Dad is angry about the broken gate.

C. **Use the verb – look – to write a sentence with a linking verb.**
LINKS IN A CHAIN
LEARNING ABOUT LINKING VERBS Answers

A.
1. **Action** verbs show *actions* – run, skip, jump, hop, dream, or hope.
2. **State of being** verbs do *not* show action but a *state of being* – am, is, are, was, seem or feel.
3. **Transitive** verbs are *action verbs* that *take* a direct object or sometimes an indirect object.
4. **Intransitive** verbs are *action verbs* that do *not* take a direct object.
5. **Linking** verbs are *intransitive, state of being verbs* without a direct object.
6. **Linking** verbs are followed by nouns, pronouns or adjectives.
7. These nouns are called **predicate nouns**.
8. These adjectives are called **predicate adjectives**.
9. What verb forms are the most common linking verbs? **To be**
10. Answers will vary but should be one of the linking verbs used in this lesson.

B.
1. Susan **became** president of her class.
2. John and Mark **were** my best friends.
3. Mrs. Brown **was** the best teacher I ever had.
4. That soup **smells** rotten!
5. Brian **grows** taller every year.
6. I **feel** sleepy tonight.
7. Tracy’s hair **looks** funny this morning.
8. Our class **is** quiet today.
10. Dad **is** angry about the broken gate.

C. Answers will vary.