ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Verbs

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you give a sentence its action or its state of being, like running, thinking, or being, since a sentence without a verb is not complete. A verb is what the subject does, or what the subject is, and without it the sentence has no engine. Every complete sentence needs one, whether it describes an action or a state. That is why finding the verb is the first step in understanding any sentence, and why a sentence without one feels unfinished.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Find the verb in: The bird flies.

SOLUTION

Ask: what is the bird doing? It flies.

'flies' shows the action.

So the verb is 'flies'.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Find the verb in: Sam is happy.

SOLUTION

Ask: what is the state of Sam? He is happy.

'is' links Sam to 'happy' and shows a state of being.

So the verb is 'is'.

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Practice questions

1 We swim every day. Find the verb in the sentence.

- A swim
- B swims
- C swam
- D swimming

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2 The baby sleeps. Find the verb in the sentence.

- A sleep
- B sleeps
- C slept
- D sleeping

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3 They are tired. Which word links they to tired?

- A are
- B is
- C was
- D were

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4 I wrote a letter. Which word tells you what I did?

- A write
- B wrote
- C writes
- D writing

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5

The dog jumped. Find the verb in the sentence.

A jump

B jumps

C jumped

D jumping

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6

Fill the gap with a doing word: She ___ a song well.

A sing

B sings

C sang

D sung

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7

The cake tastes sweet. Find the verb in the sentence.

A tastes

B cake

C sweet

D The

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8

We were late. Which word links we to late?

A was

B were

C are

D is

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9

The birds ___ every morning. Fill the gap with the correct verb form.

A sings

B sing

C sang

D singing

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10

The bell rang. What did the bell do?

A ring

B rang

C rung

D rings

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ANSWER KEY

1. swim

2. sleeps

3. are

4. wrote

5. jumped

6. sings

7. tastes

8. were

9. sing

10. rang

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