

# Verbs: Actions or States of Being

Verbs are a subject's action or state of being. The subject (the who or the what in a sentence) is the one performing the action or existing in a certain state.

Action verbs are easier to detect. To find an action verb, look for the words that describe an action that you can physically see happening. (Smiling, running, carrying, throwing, hitting, eating, etc.)

Examples of action verbs that **subjects** do:

**Josie** ran like a child.

**You** laughed until you cried.

The rocking **chair** creaked as it moved.

States of being verbs are less easy to recognize. A state of being verb is a verb that describes what state a person is in. They are all versions of the verb set "to be" in different tenses (is, was, were, are, am, be, etc.) A state of being verb describes the subject but cannot be seen and does not refer to an action.

Examples of states of being verbs that describe **subjects**:

**She** was very tired.

**We** were at the party for several hours.

**I** am very skilled on the computer.

**You** are going to have a lot of homework.

School is so important in life.

# Verbs Practice

Circle the subject and underline the verb. Identify if the following verbs are actions or states of being.

1. The ball is red. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The children are smart. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Juan appeared uninjured after the accident. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Alexia smells the cake. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The wind blows constantly in Chicago. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Kaden returned the records to the library. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ahmad was almost ten minutes late. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Cecelia was the star of the play. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The orange tastes bitter. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The dog growled at the new letter carrier. \_\_\_\_\_
11. The earthquake shook the ground. \_\_\_\_\_
12. They were delicious. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Experts handled the case. \_\_\_\_\_
14. These bananas are ripe. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Your perfume smells nice. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Is Devonne a good math student? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Soldiers attacked the fortress. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Kayla is often hungry before lunch. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Donald wanted to buy tickets to the game. \_\_\_\_\_
20. Angelique and Tobias were often late. \_\_\_\_\_