

Try This!

Would you rather read a good book or kick a soccer ball around? Make a list of action words that describe your favorite activities. Then compare lists with a friend. What hobbies do you have in common? It might be time to plan an action-packed day together!

A Verb for Herb

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We're Going on a Verb Hunt: Can you find the 14 verbs in this paragraph? Look for action verbs, linking verbs, and helping verbs. Underline each verb you see. Then find the verbs in the word search puzzle. Answers can go across, down, or on a diagonal.



If you are bored, go on a Verb Vacation. Our expert tour guides will lead you all around beautiful Verb Village. Here you can find plenty of action—just drive around town in one of our Action Verb Autos, or see the sights from the Helping Verb Helicopter. You might even swim in the cool waters of Linking Verb Lake. And when it is time to leave, be sure to take home a souvenir dictionary as our free gift!



Herb was bored.
Herb was blue.
He sighed to himself,
“There’s nothing to do.”

Grammar Tales

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A



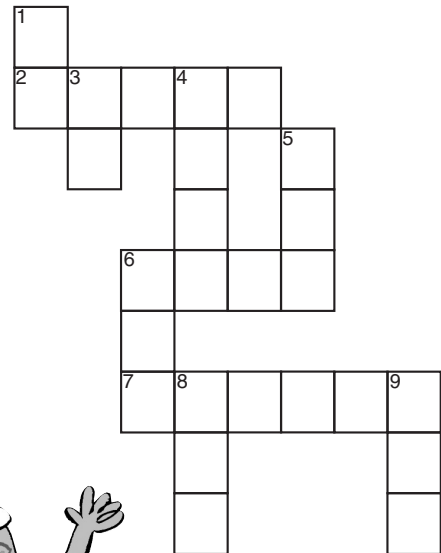
21



What is a verb?
Most verbs are action words. They tell you what someone or something does. *Walk, shout, fly, listen, and sleep* are all action verbs. Can you think of others?

Along came a fairy.
She said, "Listen, Herb.
There's plenty to do.
All you need is a verb."

B



19

2

Help Wanted! Choose a helping verb from the box to complete each sentence. Then write your answers in the crossword puzzle.

Across

2. "Next, I think I _____ learn how to juggle," Herb said.
6. Visions of verbs _____ dancing in Herb's head as he fell asleep.
7. "If you need a verb, you _____ look one up in the dictionary," the fairy told Herb.

Down

1. "Now that I have verbs, I _____ going to run in the school race," Herb announced.
3. "A fairy _____ flying through the window right now!" Herb cried.
4. "I _____ always wanted to learn magic," Herb said.
5. "These verbs sure _____ keeping me busy!" Herb thought.
6. Herb _____ feeling bored when the fairy arrived.
8. Herb _____ never seen a fairy before.
9. "I _____ need a verb," Herb thought.

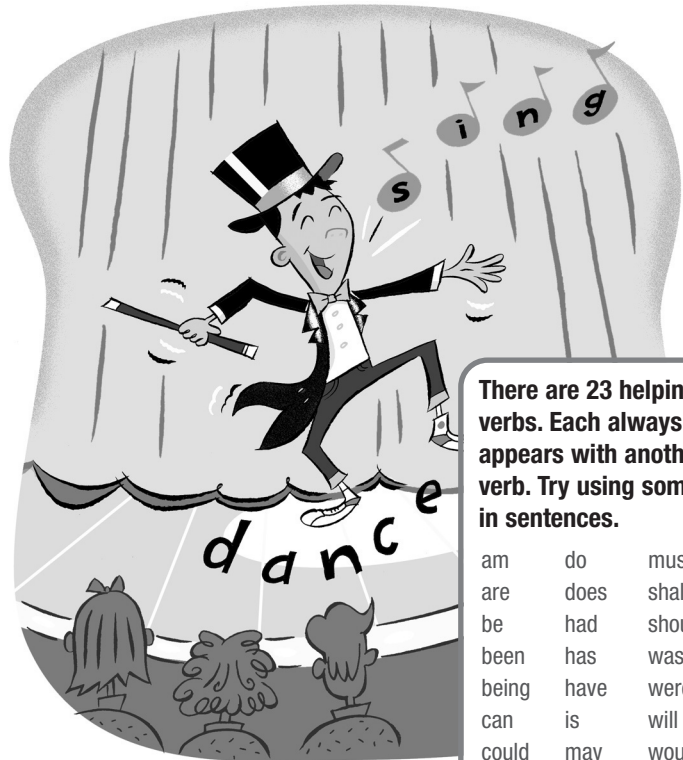
did	should	is
am	were	have
are	was	had
might		



Then she opened a sack, and out some verbs flew. "Pick one," she said. "Better yet, pick a few."



As Herb fell asleep that night in his bed, visions of verbs danced in his head.



There are 23 helping verbs. Each always appears with another verb. Try using some in sentences.

am	do	must
are	does	shall
be	had	should
been	has	was
being	have	were
can	is	will
could	may	would
did	might	

He could dance.
He could sing.



Some verbs are called **helping verbs**. They help the main verb describe the action:

He *could* run.

Run is the main verb. *Could* is a helping verb.

The fairy was right!
Herb could do anything.
He could run. He could jump.

4

Let's Review: Verbs

A **verb** is a word that shows an action or a condition.

- ★ Many verbs are action words. They describe what someone or something does. *Climb*, *juggle*, and *swim* are all action verbs. Remember, some action verbs describe activities you can't really see or hear. *Learn*, *imagine*, and *find* are all action verbs, too.
- ★ Some verbs help the main verb describe the action. These are called helping verbs. *Could* and *will* are examples of helping verbs: *He **could** read. I **will** come back.*
- ★ Some verbs are not action words. A linking verb describes a condition. *Was* and *is* are examples of linking verbs: *Herb **was** bored. It **is** late.*
- ★ How important are verbs? Just try writing a sentence without one! You cannot write a sentence without a verb. *Verbs great!* makes no sense. *Verbs **are** great!* makes sense because it includes the verb *are*.

C

17



He could swing, hit, slide,
score a home run,

6



Quick! How many verbs can you think of in one minute? Make a list.

“So remember, next time you need a distraction just think of some verbs — you’ll be ready for action!”

D

15



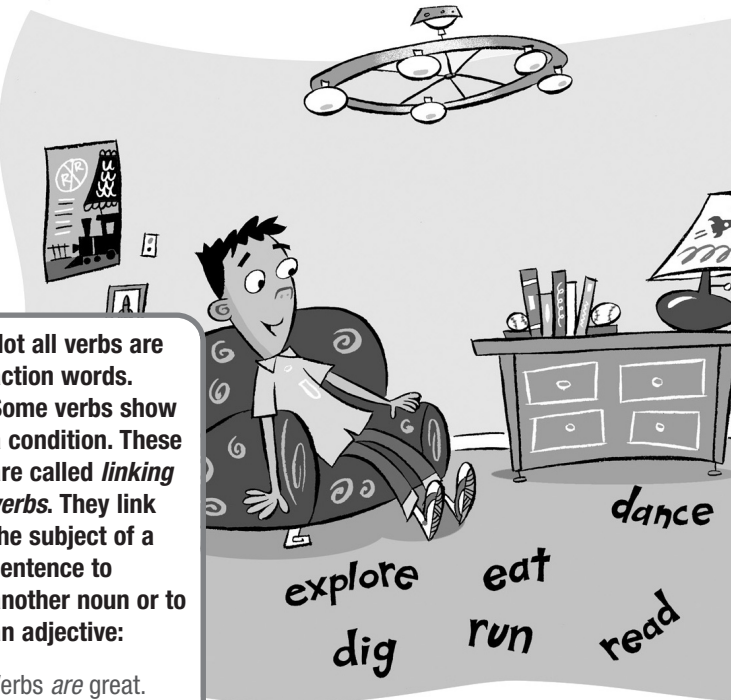
“Dear boy,” she chuckled,
 “you don’t need a fairy.
 You can find verbs galore
 in the dictionary.”

14



ride a bike, climb a tree,
 and juggle fruit just for fun.

7



Not all verbs are
 action words.
 Some verbs show
 a condition. These
 are called *linking
 verbs*. They link
 the subject of a
 sentence to
 another noun or to
 an adjective:

Verbs *are* great.
 I *am* tired.

“Wow!” said Herb.
 “Verbs are great!
 But I am tired,
 and it is late.”

12



pull rabbits from hats,
 and disappear in a wink.

9



He could learn magic.
He could grow. He could shrink,

8



Here are some other linking verbs. Can you use them in sentences?

am	being	seem
are	feel	sound
be	is	was
been	look	were

Then Herb asked the fairy
as she packed up her sack,
"If I get bored again,
will you come back?"

E

13



He could read, write, dream,
imagine, explore,

10



swim, cook, paint,
and much, much more.

F

11