

Rule 7

A verb is a word in the predicate that tells physical or mental action or a state of being.

- There are three kinds of verbs:

Action verbs tell what the subject is doing.

Jan **mowed** the lawn.
Harold **drives** the school bus.

Linking verbs link a subject to a noun or an adjective that names or describes it.

The taxi **is** yellow with black checks.
That dinner **looks** delicious.

Helping verbs come before the main verb. Helping verbs help state the action or show time.

Kim **has** passed everyone in the race.
Will **had been** practicing all week.
Eggs **are** decorated for Easter.

- The verb in a sentence must agree in number with the subject.
If the subject is singular, the verb must be singular.

Tommy was waiting to kick the ball.

If the subject is plural, the verb must be plural.

All the girls were happy to see me.

Verbs

Use Verbs

Name _____

A

Circle the verb in each sentence. Underline any helping verbs.

1. Michelle came to my house for dinner.
2. The horse galloped across the field.
3. Jamal has gone to visit his grandparents in Illinois.
4. They have seen rainbows in the sky many times.
5. Sergio saw a strange animal in his backyard.
6. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have traveled to many countries around the world.
7. Everyone in class went to science camp.
8. The workers have come to paint the house.

B

Write a sentence using each of the verbs below both as a linking verb and as a helping verb. The two sentences for **is** have been completed as an example.

is am are was

Chocolate **is** my favorite flavor.

Roberto **is** washing his father's car.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Subject-Verb Agreement

Rule 7

Circle the sentences in which the subject and verb agree. Make an **X** on the sentences that do not agree. Then rewrite each sentence correctly.

1. They were happy to see me.

2. Paul and Abbie was having fun at the fair.

3. The circus monkey were swinging by its tail.

4. The whiskers on my kitten twitches.

5. After the game, the team is going for pizza.

6. They was tired of doing homework every day.

7. Was the choir nervous before the concert?

8. Mom and Dad is excited about their vacation.

Action, Linking, or Helping?

Decide whether the underlined verb in each sentence below is an action, a linking, or a helping verb. Write your responses on the lines provided.

Verb Type

1. Americans celebrate many exciting holidays. _____
2. New Year's Day is the first major holiday of the year. _____
3. Valentine's Day is celebrated in February. _____
4. People wear green on St. Patrick's Day. _____
5. Children have hunted for eggs on Easter for centuries. _____
6. May Day is the first day of May. _____
7. England had been celebrating Mother's Day for years before the United States began to do so in 1914. _____
8. Memorial Day was first observed in 1868. _____
9. Fathers are honored on Father's Day. _____
10. July fourth is the birth date of our nation. _____
11. Families watch fireworks on the Fourth of July. _____
12. People dress in costumes on Halloween. _____
13. Turkey is the traditional food of Thanksgiving. _____
14. People like to give and receive presents on Christmas. _____