

NOTES Linking vs. Action Verbs

Action Verbs- tells what the subject DOES (think movement). Sometimes we can actually see the action, but sometimes we can not.

played	laughed	jumped	ran	threw
knew	learns	believed		

Linking Verbs - Some verbs do not show action. Instead, they tell that something IS, or they link the subject with a word or words in the predicate. These are called state-of-being verbs or LINKING VERBS.

am	is	are	was	were	been	become	feel
sound		being	seem	smell	taste		

Helpful hint: If you are trying to decide whether a verb is action or linking, **try replacing the word IS / ARE / WAS / WERE in the place of the word.** If it makes sense, that tells you the word is a **linking verb**.

For example: The crowd seemed noisy. The crowd IS noisy.
“Is” makes sense in the place of “seemed”, so that tells you “seemed” is a linking verb.

For example: Last week’s lunch smelled awful! Last week’s lunch WAS awful!
“Was” makes sense in place of “seemed”, so that tells you “smelled” is a linking verb in this sentence.

For example: She smelled the dirty laundry pile. She IS the dirty laundry pile.
“Is” does NOT make sense in the place of “smelled”, so that tells you “smelled” is NOT a linking verb but rather an action verb in this sentence.