



Reading On The Move

Making Things Happen

Parts of Speech: Verbs and Adverbs

When you look up a word in the dictionary, you will see a small letter next to the meaning, which tells you the word's **part of speech**. There are four (4) common parts of speech: noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. In this lesson, you will be exploring verbs and adverbs.

Part of Speech	Definition	Examples
verb (v)	an action word; something that you do	talk smile work have
adverb (adv.)	a word that tells you more about a verb or adjective (these words often end in <i>-ly</i>)	quickly very really softly



Let's take a closer look at verbs:

Every sentence has a subject (a person, place, or thing) and an **action verb** (what the person, place, or thing is doing).

Example: She **ran**. (*she* is the subject, *ran* is the verb.)

Michael **wrote**. (*Michael* is the subject, *wrote* is the verb.)

The car **stopped**. (*car* is the subject, *stopped* is the verb.)

In each sentence below, underline the subject and circle the verb. The first one is done for you.

1. The dog **barked**.
2. The wind blew.
3. The ship sailed.
4. I ate cookies.
5. Chris draws.



A **linking verb** is a verb that does not show action but it connects the subject and the verb to additional information.

Example: *Jorge is a soccer fan.*

Is isn't something that Jorge can physically do. It links the subject, *Jorge*, to more information about him.

Tara always feels tired when she stays up watching television all night.

Feels connects the subject, *Tara*, to her state of being, *tired*.

Some verbs that are always linking verbs are the forms of the verb "to be" such as: *am, it is are, were, was, has been, are being, etc.* A couple of other verbs that are always linking verbs are: *become* and *seem*.

There are verbs that can be used as action verbs or linking verbs. Some of these verbs are: *feel, look, appear, smell, taste, turn, sound, etc.* So, how do we tell if they are being used as action or linking verbs? Let's explore these verbs!



One strategy to use when figuring out whether a verb is an action verb or a linking verb is to replace the verb with the words *is*, *and*, or *are* and see if the sentence still makes sense. If the sentence still makes sense, it is a linking verb. If the sentence does not make sense, it is an action verb.

Example: The apple pie ***tasted*** delicious.

The apple pie ***is*** delicious.

Tasted can be replaced with *is* and the sentence still makes sense. *Tasted* is a linking verb in this sentence.

Mary ***felt*** the slimy worm.

Mary ***is*** the slimy worm.

When *felt* is replaced with *is*, the sentence does not make sense. Mary is not the slimy worm. So, *felt* is an action verb.

Decide whether the underlined verb in each sentence is a linking verb or an action verb. Write L for linking verb or A for action verb on the line provided.

- _____ 6. Victor wanted a new car.
- _____ 7. Celeste drank diet soda.
- _____ 8. The coffee smelled strong.
- _____ 9. Maria smelled the flower.
- _____ 10. My sister eats pretzels.
- _____ 11. The cat seemed ill.
- _____ 12. We baked cupcakes.
- _____ 13. He felt feverish.
- _____ 14. Silvia hung the picture.
- _____ 15. Karina plays soccer.

Let's take a closer look at adverbs:

Adverbs: describe action words

Adverbs are words that describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. They can describe *how*, *where*, *when*, and *to what extent* an action happens.

Example: *Ricardo walks slowly.* (*Slowly* describes how Ricardo walks.)
Ricardo walks very slowly. (*Very* describes how slowly Ricardo walks.)

Often times, adverbs end in *-ly*. Most adverbs that describe “how” end in *-ly*, such as the word *slowly*. However, not all words that end in *-ly* are adverbs. For example, the word *supply* ends in *-ly*, but can be a noun and a verb but not an adverb. On the other hand, not all adverbs end in *-ly*. For example, the word *always* is an adverb that does not end in *-ly*.

The table below gives examples of adverbs that describe *how*, *where*, *when*, and *to what extent*:

Adverbs that describe <u>How</u>	Adverbs that describe <u>Where</u>	Adverbs that describe <u>When</u>	Adverbs that describe <u>To What Extent</u>
beautifully	anywhere	after	extremely
carefully	everywhere	always	not
eagerly	here	before	quite
gracefully	in, out	daily	rather
lazily	inside	never	really
quickly	outside	soon	so
quietly	somewhere	still	somewhat
really	there	then	terribly
recklessly	underground	today	too
urgently	upstairs	when	very

The underlined words in the sentences below are adverbs. Circle the verb, adverb, or adjective that the adverb describes. The first one is done for you.

16. She rarely (misses) work.
17. I carefully glued the paper.
18. He will visit tomorrow.
19. I eat a banana daily.
20. She plays the piano beautifully.
21. Let's leave soon.
22. He plays soccer recklessly.
23. Ants build colonies underground.
24. He walked lazily to the kitchen.
25. They rushed urgently to the hospital.



Use the word bank to fill in the blanks below. The first one is done for you.

Word Bank

accidentally

always

angrily

cheerfully

mightily

neatly

quietly

quite

reluctantly

yesterday

26. Fredrick stomped his feet angrily.
27. That dog _____ barks.
28. We _____ sing songs.
29. The lion roared _____.
30. _____, I ate rice and beans.
31. Maya _____ wrote a letter.
32. Veronica _____ broke a plate.
33. The kitten slept _____.
34. The man _____ placed his money on the counter.
35. He swims _____ well.

← Answer Key

1. The dog barked.
2. The wind blew.
3. The ship sailed.
4. I ate cookies.
5. Chris draws.
6. A
7. A
8. L
9. A
10. A
11. L
12. A
13. L
14. A
15. A
16. misses
17. glued
18. visit
19. eat
20. plays
21. leave
22. plays
23. build
24. walked
25. rushed
26. angrily
27. always
28. cheerfully
29. mightily
30. yesterday
31. neatly
32. accidentally
33. quietly
34. reluctantly
35. quite