

Advanced Linking Verbs

Name: _____



The simple explanation for a linking verb is that it shows state of being rather than action. An example of this is: Mary is happy. **Is** is a linking verb that joins **Mary** to an adjective that describes Mary: **happy**. Linking verbs that join subjects and adjectives are the easiest to identify.

However, there are some verbs that can be either action verbs or linking verbs, depending on how they are used. For example, if we say: "Jim tastes the tomato soup," the verb, **tastes**, is an action verb because it is something Jim is doing. But, if we say, "The soup tastes salty," the verb **tastes** is now a linking verb. It joins **soup** with the adjective **salty**, which describes it.



Even more difficult to identify are the linking verbs that join a subject to a noun. For example: He became a teacher. **Became** links the subject, **he**, to the noun, **teacher**. This one is tricky. If you can replace the verb with a form of **to be** (am, are, is, was, etc.) and it makes sense, the verb is acting as a linking verb. In this case, it would be fine to say, "He is a teacher."

Circle the linking verb in each sentence. Underline the adjective or noun that the verb links to the subject. Draw an arrow from the adjective or noun back to the subject. The first one is done for you.

1. The abandoned puppy looked hungry.
2. Joe and his father are friendly.
3. We were excited by the good news.
4. His feet grew tired by the end of the day.
5. That rock music sounds loud!
6. You are a beautiful girl.
7. They became friends.
8. The kitchen floor seems dirty.
9. Your perfume smells delightful!
10. We were afraid during the thunderstorm.

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1. The abandoned puppy looked hungry.
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(compound subject)
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