

Lesson 5**Verbs: Action (Transitive/Intransitive)**

A **verb** is a word that expresses action or a state of being and is necessary to make a statement. An **action verb** tells what someone or something does. Some action verbs express physical action. Other action verbs express mental action. A **transitive verb** is an action verb that is followed by a word or words that answer the question *what?* or *whom?*

The dancer **performed** the most difficult movements. (The action verb *performed* is followed by the noun *movements*, which answers the question *what?*)

An **intransitive verb** is an action verb that is not followed by words that answer the question *what?* or *whom?*

The dancer **performed** gracefully. (The action verb *performed* is followed by a word that tells how.)

► **Exercise 1** Underline the verb in each sentence. In the blank, write *T* if the verb is transitive. Write *I* if the verb is intransitive.

- T Jaelyn followed the recipe carefully.
- _____ 1. Kathleen Battle, the opera star, sings amazingly well.
- _____ 2. The red ants fought the black ants.
- _____ 3. My aunt plays rugby every Sunday.
- _____ 4. The hawk flew slowly over the forest.
- _____ 5. Everyone saw the horse with the beautiful saddle.
- _____ 6. Twenty-thousand people watched in amazement.
- _____ 7. Beth finally heard that new song by the Ooglies.
- _____ 8. The members of the chess club elected Janelle president.
- _____ 9. The sound engineer recorded the bass and guitars first.
- _____ 10. Dogs hear much better than humans.
- _____ 11. I never watch game shows on television.
- _____ 12. Robin finished early.
- _____ 13. The dolphin turned quickly and smoothly.
- _____ 14. I finished my homework during study hall.
- _____ 15. I turned the pages of the old book with care.
- _____ 16. Hummingbirds eat almost constantly.

- _____ 17. Salmon actually swim up rivers.
- _____ 18. The plan succeeded in spite of his strong opposition.
- _____ 19. Carson's dog eats almost anything.
- _____ 20. Raeanne tasted my bagel.
- _____ 21. My dad never drinks coffee with his meals.
- _____ 22. The beavers built the dam in less than a day.
- _____ 23. Luis stayed at his grandmother's house for three weeks in the spring.
- _____ 24. The parakeet died of pneumonia.
- _____ 25. The outfielder caught the ball near the wall.
- _____ 26. The crow looked at the scarecrow without the slightest trace of fear.
- _____ 27. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia in 1994.
- _____ 28. Quentin conducted the school jazz band during one number.
- _____ 29. Chen ran faster than anyone in the entire school.
- _____ 30. He returned her calculator with a big scratch on it.
- _____ 31. Good detectives never reveal their theories.
- _____ 32. The tour director made all the reservations.
- _____ 33. The bloodhound smelled something on the old, dirty jacket.
- _____ 34. The bell rang at exactly midnight.
- _____ 35. Mr. Rossi ran the shop with an iron hand.
- _____ 36. She opened the window in the kitchen.
- _____ 37. People called often during the holidays.
- _____ 38. In *Casablanca* Bogart and Bergman meet for the last time at an airport.
- _____ 39. The mayor called just before dinner.
- _____ 40. Uncle Roscoe met me at the bus station.

► **Writing Link** Write three sentences describing your favorite movie. Use both transitive and intransitive verbs in your description.

Lesson 6**Verbs: Linking**

A **linking verb** links, or joins, the subject of a sentence (often a noun or pronoun) with a word or expression that identifies or describes the subject. *Be* in all its forms (*am, is, are, was, were, been, being*) is the most common linking verb. Other linking verbs include *look, sound, feel, grow, remain, stay, seem, appear, become, and taste*.

I **am** a soldier.

Bananas **were** plentiful.

The opera **sounded** wonderful.

She **felt** sad.

► **Exercise 1** Place a check in the blank next to each sentence whose main verb is a linking verb.

- _____ Fiona is Irish.
- _____ 1. Irish Americans are one of this country's largest immigrant groups.
- _____ 2. About 40 million Americans claim Irish ancestry.
- _____ 3. This total is almost ten times the number of people in the country of Ireland today.
- _____ 4. Among the states with the largest number of Irish Americans are Massachusetts, Delaware, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.
- _____ 5. Irish immigrants came to this country very early in its history.
- _____ 6. Ireland was a country with a large population.
- _____ 7. The large number of people caused a rise in the poverty level.
- _____ 8. Many Irish felt hopeful about the endless job opportunities in America.
- _____ 9. In 1845 a terrible potato famine struck Ireland.
- _____ 10. The first big wave of Irish immigrants started in the 1840s.
- _____ 11. Most Irish immigrants settled in the large cities of the Northeast.
- _____ 12. Irish immigrants were important in building the famous Erie Canal and many highways, railroads, and cities.
- _____ 13. The Irish had an advantage over other immigrants because they could speak English.
- _____ 14. In spite of this, however, many Irish suffered discrimination.
- _____ 15. Irish Americans have made important contributions in many areas of American life and society.
- _____ 16. One well-known Irish American was President John F. Kennedy.
- _____ 17. Irish American Eugene O'Neill, an outstanding dramatist, won the Nobel Prize in literature for his plays.

- _____ 18. John L. Sullivan, America's first sports superstar, reigned as world heavyweight boxing champion in the late 1800s.
- _____ 19. Other famous Irish Americans are actor John Wayne, singer Bing Crosby, and Ronald Reagan, the former president.
- _____ 20. March 17, St. Patrick's Day, is the day when Irish Americans celebrate their heritage.

► **Exercise 2** Underline the linking verb (or verbs) in each sentence. Then circle the word or words after the linking verb that identify or describe the subject.

This is the story of an American hero.

1. John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the thirty-fifth president of the United States.
2. When he was a child, his life seemed easy.
3. Joseph and Rose Kennedy appeared eager to give their children every opportunity to succeed.
4. John became an author when an expanded version of his senior thesis was published as a book.
5. *Why England Slept* is an account of Great Britain's difficulty in trying to react to military events.
6. Events grew bleaker in Europe as World War II advanced.
7. The United States stayed neutral for a time but eventually sent troops to Europe and Asia.
8. John Kennedy felt confident that he could command a Navy motor torpedo boat.
9. His mission grew dangerous when a Japanese destroyer sank his boat.
10. He became a hero when he led his men back to safety.
11. After the war ended, Kennedy became a politician.
12. He was first a congressman and then a senator.
13. In Congress, he was responsive to his constituents' concerns.
14. Though often ill, he looked vigorous and strong.
15. He became a strong supporter of civil rights legislation.
16. In 1960, Kennedy was the Democratic party's candidate for president.
17. He remains the youngest person ever elected President of the United States.
18. His inaugural address sounded eloquent to the citizens.
19. His ideas were new and exciting.
20. His influence on young people was great.