

for CHAPTER 3: PARTS OF SPEECH OVERVIEW **pages 46–47**

Linking Verbs

3c. A **linking verb** is a verb that expresses a state of being. A linking verb connects, or links, the subject to a word or word group that identifies or describes the subject.

LINKING VERB Your painting **is** beautiful!

Some verbs may be either action verbs or linking verbs, depending on how they are used.

ACTION VERB Paco **tasted** the soup.

LINKING VERB Those vegetables **tasted** fresh.

EXERCISE A Underline the linking verb in each of the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow showing which words are joined by the linking verb.

Example 1. The old house looked deserted.

1. The huge diamond mine is now a museum.
2. The computerized voice sounds human to me.
3. After the storm, the islanders grew nervous at the sight of all the dark clouds.
4. Some of the bristlecone pine trees are very old.
5. The farm animals looked quite content.

EXERCISE B Underline the verbs in the following sentences. Then, identify each as an action verb or a linking verb by writing above it *A* for *action verb* or *L* for *linking verb*.

Example 1. Aaron Burr was the third Vice President of the United States.

6. Burr became one of the most colorful characters in U.S. history.
7. Burr came from a well-known Puritan family.
8. At age twenty-one, he was a commanding officer of an entire regiment.
9. He resigned in 1779 because of ill health.
10. Later, Burr practiced law.
11. He almost always looked wealthy and successful.
12. Burr and Alexander Hamilton were longtime enemies.
13. Burr fought a duel with Hamilton.
14. Hamilton died from his wound.
15. Burr's political career was soon over.

Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

3d. A **helping verb** (auxiliary verb) helps the main verb express action or a state of being.

EXAMPLE Christopher **can** sing beautifully.

A **verb phrase** contains one main verb and one or more helping verbs. Sometimes a verb phrase is interrupted by another part of speech.

EXAMPLES The code **was hidden** inside an old book. [The helping verb is *was*.]
Sparky **will not bite** you. [The helping verb is *will*.]

EXERCISE A Underline the verb phrase in each sentence. Then, draw another line under each helping verb.

Examples 1. People have celebrated birthdays in many different ways.

2. I didn't forget your birthday.

- Perhaps we should learn more about birthday celebrations in various countries.
- Mexicans will sometimes buy a piñata for a birthday party.
- The piñata is filled with small treats and gifts.
- In Mexico, families will usually celebrate a girl's fifteenth birthday with a special party.
- This traditional celebration is called a *quinceañera*.
- In the United States, a girl's sixteenth birthday is often treated as a special birthday.
- Some people do not like birthday celebrations.
- They might not tell you their age.
- Other people have celebrated in spectacular ways.
- Maybe I will celebrate my birthday in a new way this year.

EXERCISE B Underline the verb phrases in the following paragraph. Then, draw a second line under the helping verb in each phrase. Hint: The paragraph contains ten verb phrases.

Example A storm will sometimes produce thunder and lightning.

Scientists can explain the causes of thunder. The sound of thunder is caused by the heat of lightning. A bolt of lightning can heat nearby air molecules. The air molecules will then expand, and they will also move. Their movement can create sounds and echoes. Because light can travel faster than sound, you will first see the lightning. The flash will occur almost immediately; only afterward will you hear the thunder.