



Linking Verbs

Most verbs express an action, a doing word. However, a small group of verbs, called linking verbs, is used to connect the subject to a complement (typically a noun or adjective).

The most common linking verbs are;

Linking Verb	Example Sentence
appear	<i>She appears sad</i>
be	<i>I am happy</i>
become	<i>I have become angry</i>
feel	<i>I feel upset</i>
grow	<i>We will grow old together</i>
look	<i>She looks pretty</i>
remain	<i>We remain seated</i>
seem	<i>He seems unhappy</i>
smell	<i>It smells lovely</i>
sound	<i>They sounded tired</i>
taste	<i>It tastes delicious</i>

Some verbs can act as both action verbs and linking verbs, depending on the context of the sentence. Typical examples include come, fall, get, go, grow, keep, remain, stay and turn.

Action: She tasted the meal slowly.

Linking: The meal tastes delicious.

It's important to identify linking verbs because there are some important grammar rules that apply to these verbs.

1. Don't use adverbs to describe the subject in a sentence with a linking verb. Instead, use adjectives.

✗ He is slowly.

✓ He is slow.

2. Make sure the linking verb is conjugated to the subject, not to the complement.

✗ The fastest animal are cheetahs.

✓ The fastest animal is cheetahs.