

# Kinds of Verbs

The Ch'i-lin Purse

- As you know, every sentence has two parts, the subject and the predicate.
- The key word in the predicate is the **verb**.
- The **verb** tells what the subject of the sentence is, has, does, or feels.
  - Burt works at the park.
  - He trims the trees.
  - He loves his job.
  - He paints the benches.

# Action Verbs

- Most verbs are action verbs. Some action verbs refer to physical action that can be seen by other people.
- Others refer to mental action that cannot be seen.
  - Physical Action: The gardener feeds the ducks.
  - Mental Action: She likes the migrating birds best.

# Being Verbs

- Other verbs express a state of **being**.
- These verbs do not refer to action of any sort. They simply tell what the subject is.
  - Burt is the gardener's assistant.
  - He seems afraid of the swans.
  - One swan looks angry.
  - In fact, swans are hungry.

The most common being verbs are forms of *be* itself.

- Am
- is
- Are
- Was
- Were
- Be
- Being
- been

# Other being verbs:

- Appear
- Become
- Feel
- Grow
- Look
- Seem
- Remain
- Smell
- Sound
- Stay
- taste

# Identify each verb in the sentences below. Does it express action or being?

1. We parked and locked our bicycles in the rack at the library.
2. Many, many resources were available there.
3. I considered several books about wild animals.
4. All of the books looked interesting.
5. Finally, I decided on one about tropical birds.
6. The book described many birds from countries in Central and South America.
7. I especially liked the photographs in the book.
8. The pictures of the birds are very colorful.
9. Some of the birds' feathers are pink, orange, red, and green.
10. I carried the book home in my backpack.

# Linking Verbs

- A verb that expresses a state of being often functions as a linking verb.
- A linking verb *links*, or connects, the subject with a noun or an adjective in the predicate that names or describes the subject.
  - Peanut is a toad.
  - Peanut is tiny.



# Some verbs can function as either linking verbs or action verbs.

Linking Verbs	Action Verbs
The lily pond <u>smells</u> stagnant.	The squirrel <u>smells</u> its food.
The gardener <u>felt</u> tired.	She <u>felt</u> the tree's thick leaves.

- To help you decide whether one of these verbs is a linking verb, try substituting *is* or *are* for the verb. If the sentence still makes sense, the verb is probably a linking verb.
  - The pigeons look comical. (The pigeons are comical)
  - The swan's hiss sounds fierce. (The swan's hiss is fierce)

# Which sentence in each of the following pairs contains a linking verb.

- 11. A monkey appears from behind a tree. It appears excited.
- 12. The young deer grew taller. The male deer grew antlers.
- 13. The koala baby looks cute. It looks for its mother.
- 14. The koala tastes a leaf. Does it taste good?
- 15. We smell the eucalyptus tree. It smells pleasant.
- 16. We feel the tree's bark. It feels smooth.

# List the verbs in the sentences below. Label each verb action or being.

- 17. Photographs, television, and movies show us a variety of unusual creatures.
- 18. We can see animals in their natural habitat in national parks, nature sanctuaries, or even city parks.
- 19. Few animals look strange to us today.
- 20. Some animals still seem unusual, however.
- 21. The anteater is one example.
- 22. The head and snout of this animal form a long tube.
- 23. A giant anteater becomes six feet long.
- 24. It grows a coarse coat of hair.
- 25. The front toes and claws of the anteater fold under.
- 26. The animal actually walks on its knuckles.

List the verbs in the sentences below.  
Label each verb action or being.

- 27. The giant anteater usually appears shy.
- 28. It enjoys dark, wet tropical forests.
- 29. Ants and termites appear in this animal's diet.
- 30. The anteater is a peaceful animal.