

for CHAPTER 12: PARTS OF SPEECH OVERVIEW **page 347**

The Verb

12a. A **verb** is a word that expresses action or a state of being.

EXAMPLES We **rode** on that Ferris wheel last night.
John **seemed** happy to be with us.

Every complete sentence has a verb. The verb says something about the subject.

EXERCISE A Underline the verb in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. The alligator snapped its jaws shut.

1. We all jumped about three feet into the air.
2. Is that alligator hungry?
3. Look at that beautiful heron!
4. Alligators and crocodiles appear somewhat alike to me.
5. How are they different?
6. I saw hundreds of alligators in Florida.
7. Were you near St. Augustine?
8. They made me really nervous.
9. The boat sat very low in the water.
10. My brother took pictures during the boat ride.

EXERCISE B Complete each of the following sentences by writing a verb on the line provided.

Example 1. Sarah and Keadra jumped into the pool.

11. I _____ the names of all fifty states.
12. John _____ an advertisement in today's newspaper.
13. The soft drinks _____ a little too warm.
14. The dog _____ wildly in circles.
15. The marching band _____ in the middle of the field.
16. Alia's family _____ two mountain bikes.
17. Which tangerine _____ better?
18. Julio _____ the violin, not the cello.
19. My grandmother _____ me a letter at least twice a month.
20. The milk _____ all over the table.

Exercise 4 Identifying Linking Verbs

Identify the linking verbs or verb phrases in the following sentences.

EXAMPLE 1. Peanut soup made from fresh roasted peanuts tastes good.

1. *tastes*

1. Peanuts remain an important crop around the world.
2. The peanut, which is high in protein, is native to South America.
3. Peanuts grow ripe underground.
4. The seeds are the edible part of the plant.
5. The peanut has become an important ingredient in more than three hundred common products, such as wood stains, shampoo, printer's ink, and soap.
6. Of course, roasting peanuts smell wonderful.
7. Peanut butter was the invention of a St. Louis doctor in 1890.
8. Before then, thanks to George Washington Carver, the peanut had become one of the major crops of the South.
9. Carver, a scientist who experimented with peanuts and other plants, had been a slave.
10. It may seem strange, but Carver once prepared an entire dinner out of peanuts.

Exercise 5 Identifying Action Verbs and Linking Verbs

Identify the verb in each of the following sentences as an *action verb* or a *linking verb*.

EXAMPLES 1. One of the most successful business leaders in the United States is John Johnson.

1. *is—linking verb*

2. Johnson publishes many popular magazines.

2. *publishes—action verb*

1. The photograph at right shows John Johnson as a success.
2. Johnson's life has not always been easy.
3. The small Arkansas town of his childhood had no high school.
4. Therefore, Johnson's mother moved to Chicago.
5. In Chicago, Johnson attended high school with classmates Redd Foxx and Nat "King" Cole.
6. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Johnson's family grew very poor.
7. However, Johnson studied hard.
8. He became an honor student, the class president, and the editor of the high school newspaper.
9. Johnson started his first magazine with a loan.
10. Now he is the owner of a group of companies worth \$200 million per year.

