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## **PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

Overhead #10

### **VERBS**

What is a VERB?

Generally, a verb is a word that shows ACTION.

What are some examples of verbs that show action?

#### **ACTION VERBS**

run	sing
speak	laugh
swim	choose
flight	fly

Some verbs do not show action.

Instead, they show a state of being.

These verbs are called NON-ACTION, or BEING or LINKING VERBS.

What are some examples of linking verbs?

#### **NON-ACTION VERBS**

is, are, was, were  
seem  
taste  
appear  
become

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## **PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

Overhead #11

### **VERB PHRASES**

**What is a VERB PHRASE?**

**A PHRASE** is a group of related words.  
**A VERB PHRASE** is a **MAIN VERB** with one or more **HELPING VERBS**.

#### **EXAMPLES OF HELPING VERBS:**

1. all forms of the verb **BE**: be, am, are, is, was, were
2. forms of the verb **HAVE**: has, have, had
3. forms of the verb **BE ABLE**: can, could
4. forms of the verb **DO**: do, does, did
5. shall, will, should, would
6. might, must

#### **EXAMPLES OF VERB PHRASES IN SENTENCES:**

1. Anthony is returning to Jamaica this summer.
2. A polar bear may weigh 500 pounds.
3. Adventure movies have always appealed to Jane.
4. I have eaten all my spinach.

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## **PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

### **EXERCISE 11: RECOGNIZING VERBS**

Underline the verbs in each of the following sentences.

1. Diseases such as yellow fever killed more people than bullets did in the Spanish-American War.
2. In 1898, Dr. William Gorgas, who lived in Havana, Cuba, killed many of the mosquitoes that carried the yellow fever virus.
3. Gorgas accomplished this task because he arranged for the cleaning of the streets in Havana.
4. In Panama City, Gorgas fumigated every building and rid the city of the virus in less than two years.
5. People built the Panama Canal because they stayed healthy.
6. King George V knighted Gorgas for his work.

### **EXERCISE 12: VERBS AND VERB PHRASES**

Underline the verbs and verb phrases in each of the following sentences.

1. Malaria was a bigger challenge to Dr. Gorgas because it was carried by mosquitoes which lived in the jungle.
2. Through a narrow strip of land where the Panama Canal was planned, Gorgas organized crews of people who eliminated swamps and burned insecticide.
3. Because of his efforts, the narrow strip of land was cleared of the malaria mosquitoes and the crews could build the canal.
4. President Theodore Roosevelt gave Gorgas a promotion for his great success.

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**EXERCISE 13: ACTION AND LINKING VERBS**

Underline the verb or verb phrase in each of the following sentences. In the blank provided, identify each as an action verb or a linking verb.

1. Hansel and Gretel sat by the fire. \_\_\_\_\_
2. At dinnertime, they each ate their little slice of bread. \_\_\_\_\_
3. They thought their father was quite near. \_\_\_\_\_
4. They could hear the sound of an ax. \_\_\_\_\_
5. It was not an ax, however, but the sound of a tree branch. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Soon they became tired and fell asleep. \_\_\_\_\_
7. When they awoke, it was night. \_\_\_\_\_
8. When the full moon rose, Hansel took his little sister's hand, and they walked through the woods. \_\_\_\_\_
9. They walked the whole night long, and at daybreak they were back at their father's cottage. \_\_\_\_\_
10. They knocked at the door of the cottage and their mean, old stepmother opened it for them. \_\_\_\_\_



## PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH

### EXERCISE 14: USING VERBS

Finish each sentence which follows by writing a verb in the blank space provided. Try to use a verb which expresses a precise meaning. Try to avoid using dull or ordinary verbs like "is", "are", "was", "were".

1. At the World Championships, the Judges \_\_\_\_\_ the highest marks to the Russian skater.
2. When I tried to enter, Juanita \_\_\_\_\_ the door.
3. It \_\_\_\_\_ all afternoon.
4. Some of the children who came to the door on Halloween \_\_\_\_\_ horrible masks.
5. Without warning, the Alien from Another Planet \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Jackie \_\_\_\_\_ everything.
7. Twenty-two students in my class \_\_\_\_\_ the roller coaster at the amusement park.
8. A.Y. Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ Algonquin Park many times during his long career as an artist.
9. Many people still \_\_\_\_\_ *Gone With The Wind* more than 60 years after the movie was released.
10. Carmelita \_\_\_\_\_ to her friends.
11. Three goats \_\_\_\_\_ in the fields all afternoon.
12. Wyatt Earp \_\_\_\_\_ the outlaws at the O.K. Corral.
13. Henry Ford \_\_\_\_\_ the automobile, so now many people are able to drive it.
14. Mrs. Lynch \_\_\_\_\_ the students who did well on the test.

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## **PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

Overhead #12

### **VERB TENSES**

**What is a VERB TENSE?**

**A verb expresses an action.**

**A tense tells the TIME when the action takes place.**

**Many verb tenses are formed from the INFINITIVE.**

**What is an INFINITIVE?**

**An INFINITIVE is  
a VERB FORM  
beginning with “TO”.**  
**examples:**  
**to live   to ride   to laugh**

**In your notebook, make a list of ten infinitives.**

**Here are some examples:**

**to say  
to eat  
to play  
to think**

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**PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

Overhead #13

**VERB TENSES**

**THE SIMPLE TENSES**

The **SIMPLE TENSES** are the simplest form of the verb:

There are three Simple Tenses. They are:

**PRESENT PAST FUTURE.**

The **SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE** *is* formed from the infinitive.

**Present Tense: I live, I ride, I laugh.**

The **SIMPLE PAST TENSE** *is not* formed from the infinitive.

**Past Tense: I lived, I rode, I laughed.**

The **SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE** *is* formed from the infinitive.

**Future Tense: I shall live, I shall ride, I shall laugh**

**--or--I will live, I will ride, I will laugh.**

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## **PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

Overhead #14

### **CONSISTENT VERB TENSES**

**Tenses show the time RELATIONSHIP between actions which occur in sentences.**

Writers use the SAME verb tense when actions occur at the same time.

If a writer uses both the past tense and the present tense in the same sentence, the writer indicates that the action in the past occurred *before* the action in the present.

**Example:** *I speak to John and told him* would be incorrect because these actions occurred at the same time.

The correct sentence would read:  
*I spoke to John and told him.*

*I went up to him and I says...*  
is similarly incorrect  
because both actions occurred in the past.

*I read the book and now I know more about the subject*  
would be correct  
because the reading occurred in the past  
and the knowing in the present.



## PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH

### EXERCISE 15: VERB TENSES

In the blank provided write the simple present tense of the verb *to be*.

1. Whenever I \_\_\_\_\_ tired, I go to sleep
2. Fifty seven people \_\_\_\_\_ ahead of me in the line.
3. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ the best friend I have.
4. You \_\_\_\_\_ very good at Mathematics.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ going to the zoo on Saturday.

### EXERCISE 16: VERB TENSES

In the blank provided, write the form of the verb required.

1. **ask** (*simple past*)  
Marc \_\_\_\_\_ if I had ever visited Disney Land.
2. **give** (*simple past*)  
My grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ me a souvenir of the war.
3. **come** (*simple present*)  
I will speak to her when she \_\_\_\_\_ home.
4. **see** (*simple present*)  
A cat \_\_\_\_\_ in the dark.
5. **eat** (*simple past*)  
Waldo \_\_\_\_\_ his lunch in the school cafeteria.
6. **begin** (*simple past*)  
The doctor \_\_\_\_\_ by examining my chest.
7. **dust** (*simple past*)  
The custodian \_\_\_\_\_ the shelves each week.
8. **use** (*simple present*)  
Peter \_\_\_\_\_ hinges to mount his stamps.
9. **attack** (*simple past*)  
William of Normandy \_\_\_\_\_ England in 1066.
10. **risk** (*simple past*)  
A fireman \_\_\_\_\_ his life every day.
11. **drown** (*simple past*)  
Very few people \_\_\_\_\_ when *Titanic* sank.
12. **know** (*simple past*)  
I \_\_\_\_\_ the answers to all the questions on the test.

## PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH

### REVIEW TEST #2: VERBS (20 marks)

1. There are five verbs or verb phrases in the following paragraph. Underline each one. Be sure to underline the entire verb phrase, but no additional words. (5 marks)

Most of my family live in Wales, where I was born. All of the country is very beautiful with mountains and hills and valleys everywhere. Some of my relatives work in industrial jobs, while others perform professional duties.

2. In the space provided, identify the underlined verb or verb phrase as action verb or linking verb. (5 marks)

- a) The moon rose early on that fateful night! \_\_\_\_\_  
b) Brenda is an excellent soccer player. \_\_\_\_\_  
c) My neighbor's dog barks at everyone who passes by. \_\_\_\_\_  
d) The prisoners climbed over the wall to escape. \_\_\_\_\_  
e) Marvin was the first badge winner in Scouts. \_\_\_\_\_

3. In the blank provided, write the present tense of the verb *to be*. (5 marks)

- a) When I \_\_\_\_\_ good, everyone is happy.  
b) People \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes cruel to animals.  
c) Paula \_\_\_\_\_ a very good friend of my sister.  
d) You \_\_\_\_\_ the winner in this lottery.  
e) We \_\_\_\_\_ always well behaved.

4. In the blank provided, write the form of the verb required. (5 marks)

- a) **come** (*simple present*) Friends \_\_\_\_\_ to visit me often.  
b) **use** (*simple present*) The artist \_\_\_\_\_ color very well.  
c) **begin** (*simple past*) The team \_\_\_\_\_ to play without me.  
d) **eat** (*simple past*) The whole family \_\_\_\_\_ dinner on the plane.  
e) **have** (*simple past*) We \_\_\_\_\_ all our provisions in the hamper.