



PASADENA CITY COLLEGE  
Writing Support Center  
Directed Learning Activities

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Course:</b>

**Topic:** Grammar and Punctuation: Verbs and Adverbs

**Learning Outcomes:** After completing this activity, you should be able to...

- Identify and properly use a verb and adverb within a sentence.

**Activity:** You will view the video, read and review each section, and complete all the exercises. When finished with all the exercises, students will sign up for a follow-up meeting with a tutor to review their work.

### Part 1: Verbs

Verbs tell us what a noun is doing or what is happening to that noun. They can be grouped into two basic categories.

1. **Action Verbs:** words that express an action (*ex. run, eat, throw, stay*). These actions can be **concrete actions** (something you can physically do, such as running) or **abstract actions** (something you can't physically do, such as thinking).
  - The escaped convict ran from the police.
  - He relied on the kindness of strangers.
2. **Linking Verbs:** verbs that *link* the subject to more information about the subject. After a linking verb is either an adjective *describing* the subject or another noun *renaming or defining* the subject. Typically, linking verbs are any **form of the verb *be* (am, are, is, was, were, will be)**.
  - I am so hungry!
  - My uncle Hank is a doctor.

**Exercise 1:** Circle the **verb** in each sentence. In the blank provided, write *A* for an action verb and *L* for a linking verb.

1. The children ran quickly to the ice cream truck. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I forgot my homework. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jim knows a lot about science. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Frogs are my favorite animal. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Writing Support Center is open today. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2:** Write one sentence using an **action verb** and one sentence using a **linking verb**.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2: Helping (“Auxiliary”) Verbs

### Begin by Viewing:

“Helping Verbs | The parts of speech | Grammar | Khan Academy.”

Find this video on Youtube.com and click on the video uploaded by Khan Academy.

### Video Recap Questions:

- What are some specific ways helping verbs “help”?

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- Based on the examples in the video, what are some of the effects that helping verbs have on a sentence?

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**Exercise 1:** *In the sentences below, underline every verb. If the verb is working with helping verb, be sure to circle it. Keep in mind that some sentences may have more than one verb.*

1. When I got to class this morning, I couldn’t believe what I saw.
2. Someone had scattered the desks across the room.
3. A group of students had gathered outside the door, but no one had gone inside yet.
4. In the corner of the room, an enormous bear was sleeping on the floor.

## Part 3: Adverbs

Adverbs are words that modify or describe verbs. They answer the question **“how?”** or **“in what way?”**

Adverbs commonly end in the letters **–ly**, but not all words that end in **-ly** are adverbs, so don’t treat it as a rule. Instead, look for how the word is functioning. If it is in some way describing a verb, then it is an adverb.

Examples:

- *The fox runs quietly.*

The adverb *quietly* is describing the verb *runs*. It answers the question “how does the fox run?”.

- *Carefully, the nurse passed the scalpel to the surgeon.*

Here, the adverb *carefully* is describing the verb *passed*.

**Exercise 1:** Circle the adverb in each sentence. Underline the verb it is describing. (Remember to ask your self if there's a word that is answering **how** the verb is functioning or **in what way** the verb is working.)

1. The boy climbed lazily into his desk.
2. Watching too much TV will slowly rot your brain.
3. I will happily go to the movies with you!
4. Secretly, he has had a crush on you for many years.
5. The lonely woman will get over her depression eventually.

*Reflect: Based on the sentences you just read, how do you think using adverbs can improve your writing?*

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**Exercise 2:** Write 3 sentences, each consisting of an adverb describing an action verb. The topic is entirely up to you. **TRY TO MAKE YOUR TUTOR LAUGH!** Believe me, we could use a chuckle.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Review the DLA

*When you have completed this DLA, please go to the front desk to sign up for a follow-up meeting with a tutor. During your session with the tutor, they will review your work with you, and you can ask them any questions you may have had while completing this DLA. You will only receive credit for this DLA after you have had your follow-up meeting with a tutor, and they sign your DLA worksheet.*

<b>Student's Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Tutor's Name and Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>