

LINKING VERBS

1) COMMON LINKING VERBS:

Be	Am
Is	Are
Was	Were
Shall be	Shall have been
Will be	Will have been
Has been	Have been
Had been	Can be
May be	Might be
Should be	Could be
Become	Would be
Appear	Seem

*Note: There are other combinations of some of these linking verbs--for example:

Has become	Could have come
Have appeared	Should have appeared
Had seemed	Should have been, etc.

2) SENSORY LINKING VERBS:

Look	Smell	Sound	Taste	Feel
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3) LESS COMMON LINKING VERBS:

Grow	Remain	Prove	Stay
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4) LINKING VERBS are used by themselves (in contrast to helping verbs, which come before another verb: was running).

Linking verbs are usually followed by a subject complement--a noun, pronoun, or adjective that refers to and describes, or means the same as, the subject.

5) EXAMPLES OF COMMON LINKING VERBS (SC=subject complement):

SC
John is President.

SC
The dog was hungry.

SC
I will not be late.

SC
She seemed nervous.

6) EXAMPLES OF SENSORY LINKING VERBS (Note: Sensory verbs are used as linking verbs only when there is no action involved in the sentence.):

SC
The pie looked delicious.

SC
The flower smelled sweet.

SC
The pie tasted delicious.

SC
The sun felt wonderful.

7) NOTE: Sensory verbs are sometimes action verbs also.

John looked at the delicious pie.

John smelled the sweet flower.

John tasted the delicious pie.

She felt the sharp blade of the new knife.

REMEMBER: If a sensory verb is an action verb--as in the above sentences--it cannot be working as a linking verb.

8) EXAMPLES OF LESS COMMON LINKING VERBS:

SC
She grows prettier every day.

SC
The test proved too difficult for most students in the class.

SC
He remains the kind man he always was.

SC
The room stayed cool two hours after the air conditioner was turned off.