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## **Recognizing Verbs**

3. Ted \_\_\_\_\_ his papers. 8. Heather \_\_\_\_ the rug.

4. My best friend \_\_\_\_\_ the race. 9. I \_\_\_\_\_ the lovely lamp.

5. The wet, frightened puppy \_\_\_\_\_\_. 10. Suddenly the clouds \_\_\_\_\_.

A verb is a word which expresses action or a state of being.

- A verb may be one word or a group of words.
- The main verb is the word that states the action.
- Helping verbs are the other verbs such as is or has that help to express the time of the action.
- The helping verb may be separated from the main verb by one or more words.

The bus <u>has just arrived</u>. <u>Have you read</u> this book?

Circle the main verb and underline the helping verb(s) below.

- 11. The cat has eaten the dog's food.
- 12. Smoking on the playground is prohibited.
- 13. The club was organized by Ty and Binnie.
- 14. We should invite Terry to the party.
- 15. Orders have been taken over the phone.
- 16. My aunt is now living in California.
- 17. Have you heard from her lately?
- 18. We have often planned a trip to Maine.
- 19. Why is the dog carrying his empty dish?
- 20. His car can be easily identified.
- 21. The captains were quickly selected.
- 22. Lee is still cutting the grass.
- 23. The trees have recently been trimmed.
- 24. Alma is not singing with the choir today.

On another sheet of paper, write sentences about a sport or other activity you like to do. Underline the verbs you have used, or you may exchange papers with a friend and underline verbs for each other.

## **Using Strong Verbs**

From the list below, choose the best or most colorful verb to fill in each blank. Use each verb only once.

rise	lures	romp	erect	blares
prance	advertise	unload	trumpet	enjoys
arrives	strut	roar	leap	cracks
flap	adorn	cluster	fly	perform
halance	iumn		•	

1. Circus posters	The Greatest Show on Earth.
2. The circus	in town on its own railroad train.
3. Workmen	the cars immediately.
4. Great sheets of canvas _	into the sky to become the "Big Top."
5. Small tents	around the "Big Top."
6. Elephants	their displeasure.
7. Lions in their cages	menacingly.
8. Now the parade band	forth.
9. The performers	( ) P
10. The horses and ponies	to the music.
11.The clowns	here and there.
12. Everyone	_ the comical antics of the clowns.
13. Trained seals	their flippers for fish.
14.The lion tamer	his whip.
15. The big cats	through the air at his command.
16. Sure-footed riders	from horse to horse.
17. Trapeze artists	through the air.
18. The heavy elephants	their tricks.
19. Trained dogs	themselves on the backs of horses.
20. The smell of popcorn	everyone to the refreshment stand.
21. Colorful costumes	-
22. Roustabouts	the riaginas auickly.

## **Prepositional Phrases**

Some prepositions are: by, near, in, or, under, over, beside, to, from. The noun after the preposition is the object of the preposition.

preposition object
The scouts marched to the river.
(prepositional phrase)

A **prepositional phrase** is a preposition, its object, and any words that tell about the object. These phrases are used like adjectives and adverbs to describe.

The man with the white hair spoke.

adjective

Tom ran into the room.

adverb

Enclose each prepositional phrase in parentheses (). Underline the preposition once and underline the object of the preposition twice.

- 1. A man with a deep voice spoke to the class.
- 2. The president of the class sat with the speaker.
- 3. A boy in the back row talked during the program.
- 4. The end of his speech was followed by loud applause."
- 5. The chairman of the committee started for the door.

A preposition can have more than one object.

His allowance was spent on a bat and a ball.

Prepositional phrases do not always follow the words they modify.

**For a moment** Tom hesitated. **Under the boat** swam a school of fish.

Underline the preposition once and its object or objects twice.

- 6. The first years of my life were spent with my grandmother and grandfather.
- 7. Over us, in the redwood forest, huge trees towered.
- 8. In the corner were piled sacks of potatoes and onions.

Add a prepositional phrase to each sentence below.

9.	The bag of bats and balls was placed
10.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
11.	the alarm sounded.
12.	A dog without a collar leaped
13.	Cookies of every kind were placed
14.	Crowds of people go to the zoo
	another sheet of paper write three sentences to describe a squirrel and a and underline the prepositional phrases.

A preposition

is a word that shows the relation of the noun following it to some other word.