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Recognizing Verbs

Supply a proper verb in these sentences.

1. Bert _____ the snow.
2. Mother _____ lunch.
3. Ted _____ his papers.
4. My best friend _____ the race.
5. The wet, frightened puppy _____.
6. The campers _____.
7. Sandy _____ the cello.
8. Heather _____ the rug.
9. I _____ the lovely lamp.
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 has just arrived. Have you read 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
balance	jump			

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 _____ around the rings.
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 _____ the performers.
22. Roustabouts _____ the riggings quickly.



