

Action Verbs and Linking Verbs

Generally, verbs can be separated into two types:

- **Action verb**, where the actor is *performing an action*
- **Linking verb**, which functions as a grammatical placeholder to *connect* the actor of the sentence to some other information

Let's look at two examples:

My son spat out his half-chewed cracker and spread it all over the floor.

This sentence has two verbs, actions performed by the actor my son: he spat out a cracker and spread it.

These are clear-cut **action verbs**, where the actor is actually *doing* something. The actor is performing concrete, physical actions that can be visualized.

Action Verbs

Example #1

On the other hand,

My father's office building is on the corner of Jefferson Boulevard and Villa Street.

Here, the actor is my father's office building, which isn't performing any action. All it's doing is being on a street corner.

The important information contained in this sentence is *the location of the building*, which doesn't have anything to do with any action being *actively performed*.

The action is being – the verb "is"—but the important thing is the *description that follows the verb*. The *leads to* the information that we need to know.

This makes the verb "is" a **linking verb**, which is essentially a placeholder.

It grammatically must be there to create a complete sentence, but all it does is connect the actor of the sentence to the information *about* it that actually matters.

Linking Verbs

Example #2