

## Unit 3: Verbs

### Lesson 13

## Action Verbs

The main word in a complete predicate of a sentence is the verb. An **action verb** is a word that names an action. Action verbs can express either physical or mental actions.

The white cloud **floated** lazily across the sky. (physical action)

Mary **thought** about the painting. (mental action)

*Have, has, and had* are also action verbs when they name what the subject owns or holds.

Jim **has** an entire set of Mark Twain books. (owns)

Jim **has** experience as a character actor. (holds)

► **Exercise 1** Draw two lines under the action verb in each sentence. Write *physical* or *mental* in the blank to indicate if the verb expresses physical action or mental action.

physical

Horses help humans in many ways.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Long ago, medieval knights fought battles atop powerful horses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Lighter horses carried lords and ladies on fox hunts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Travelers sometimes rode horses on long journeys.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Later, the wealthy traveled in horse-drawn carriages.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Farmers also relied on horses in the past.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. American farms had more than 20 million horses and mules in 1900.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Today, many persons keep horses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Children especially love shaggy, bright-eyed ponies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Gentle Shetland ponies delight young children.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Shetlands stand only four hands (21 inches) high!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Sturdy and energetic, ponies perform many tasks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The Chincoteague ponies run wild on an island off the Virginia coast.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. According to legend, they swam ashore from a Spanish ship.

**Lesson 14****Verbs: Transitive and Intransitive**

Depending on its use in a particular sentence, an action verb can be either transitive or intransitive. A **transitive verb** is followed by a word or words—called the direct object—that answer the question *what?* or *whom?* An **intransitive verb** is an action verb that does not have a direct object.

Transitive: The pilot **landed** the antique **airplane**. (*Airplane* is the direct object that answers the question *landed what?* after the verb *landed*.)

Intransitive: The pilot **landed** carefully. (There is no direct object answering the question *landed what?* or *whom?*)

► **Exercise 1** Draw two lines under each action verb. Circle each direct object. Write *T* in the blank if the verb is transitive or *I* if the verb is intransitive.

   **T**      The pilot started the airplane.

1. Wilbur and Orville Wright built the first successful airplane.
2. They built their machine in Ohio.
3. They took it to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, for its first flight.
4. Orville Wright flew the first airplane on December 17, 1903.
5. The winds at Kitty Hawk blew steadily that day.
6. The twelve-horsepower engine sputtered.
7. Soon it lifted the 750-pound plane into the air for a flight of 120 feet.
8. Orville's brother, Wilbur, ran alongside.
9. This first flight lasted only twelve seconds.
10. The Wright brothers made three more flights that day.
11. The longest one lasted fifty-nine seconds.
12. Few newspapers carried news about the first flight.
13. The brothers made improvements on their airplane and their flight techniques.
14. Other designers worked hard.
15. More successful airplanes appeared.

**Lesson 15****Verbs with Indirect Objects**

Both a direct object and an indirect object may follow an action verb in a sentence. An **indirect object** tells *to whom* or *for whom* the verb's action is done.

Kara sold **Matt** the bicycle. (*Matt* tells *to whom* Kara sold the bicycle. *Bicycle* is the direct object.)

Indirect objects follow certain rules. First, indirect objects are found only in sentences that have direct objects. Second, an indirect object always comes before a direct object. Finally, the prepositions *to* or *for* can be inserted before the indirect object; its position in the sentence can be changed, and the sentence will still make sense.

Levi threw **Jake** the football. (*Jake* is the indirect object before the direct object, *football*.)

Levi threw the football **to Jake**. (The meaning of the sentence is unchanged. *Jake* was an indirect object in the first example.)

► **Exercise 1** Write **DO** above each direct object and **IO** above each indirect object. Not every sentence has an indirect object.

IO      DO

Wrenn left Josh his video.

1. Yuri threw Karen the ball.
2. The jeweler sold the couple two lovely rings.
3. Roberto refunded Rayna the cost of the unused ticket.
4. Mr. Kenja gave Miki and Vance permission for their project.
5. The student council assigned our class the clean-up project.
6. Pablo paid the clerk two dollars for the birthday card.
7. Ted's mom sent our family the photograph.
8. Jean-Luc speaks French fluently.
9. Sarah guaranteed Ali full payment for his work at her print shop.
10. Alicia lent Steve her history book.
11. Mona showed Emilio her new tennis racket.
12. Mr. Hayes presented the team the first-place trophy.

**Lesson 17****Present and Past Tenses**

**Tense** refers to the form of the verb that shows the time of the action.

The **present tense** refers to an action that is happening now, to an action that happens regularly, or to a situation that is generally true. The present tense and the base form of a verb are the same when used with all subjects except singular nouns or *he, she, or it*. In these cases *-s* or *-es* is added to the verb.

I **smell** the fresh bread. (happening now)

The coach **calls** practice daily. (happens regularly, generally true)

The **past tense** refers to an action that has already occurred. The past tense of many verbs is formed by adding *-ed* to the base form of the verb.

I **smelled** the bread earlier.

Isabel **called** the coach.

► **Exercise 1** Draw two lines under each verb. Write its tense, *present* or *past*, in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ present      Archaeologists study the past.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Herodotus lived centuries ago in Asia Minor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. No one knows the exact dates of his birth and death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. According to historians, he lived between 484 B.C. and 420 B.C.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Roman orator Cicero once called Herodotus “the Father of History.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Today historians study his books about the Persian Empire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Herodotus considered his own work an “inquiry.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Many individuals enjoy his lively style of writing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The historian gained knowledge for his books during his journeys.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. He traveled widely through Greece, the Middle East, and North Africa.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. His books show his gift as a storyteller of history.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Other historians of this period encountered difficulties with some of Herodotus’s accounts.

**Lesson 20****Perfect Tenses: Present and Past**

The **present perfect tense** of a verb names an action that happened at some time in the past. It also names an action that happened in the past and is still occurring. The past participle of the main verb and the helping verb *have* or *has* make up the present perfect tense.

**PRESENT PERFECT TENSE****SINGULAR****I have studied.****You have studied.****He, she, or it has studied.****PLURAL****We have studied.****You have studied.****They have studied.**

The **past perfect tense** of a verb names an action that was completed before another action or event in the past. The past participle of the main verb and the helping verb *had* make up the past perfect tense.

**PAST PERFECT TENSE****SINGULAR****I had studied.****You had studied.****He, she, or it had studied.****PLURAL****We had studied.****You had studied.****They had studied.**

► **Exercise 1** Draw two lines under each verb. Write its present perfect tense in the blank.

have offeredI offered my services for their anniversary celebration.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. They remember the gifts for the guest speakers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Kenji refers to the book on the top shelf.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Kara performs the dance already.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The old sailing ship navigates the difficult shallows.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I follow Marty's suggestions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The neighbor's dog growls at me each morning.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. That cat naps every chance he gets!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. That old movie influences many people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. James loves that book.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. They demolish our team every year!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. We attend Mr. Kumba's class regularly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. You confine your campfire to this small area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Connie's track victories attract press attention.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. At sunset the clouds amaze me with their beautiful colors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. In the story, Gilgamesh wanders forever.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. The plot of the play unites the friends in the end.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The tree turns a brilliant red.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. These pictures demonstrate Sunee's artistic style.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Logic rules our scientific thought.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Jay and Dave serve the class project well.

► **Exercise 2** Fill in the blank using the verb and tense given in parentheses. *Past perf.* indicates past perfect tense, and *pres. perf.* indicates present perfect tense.

Jake and Luis have rafted down the river in Colorado. (*raft*, pres. perf.)

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ him before school started. (*telephone*, past perf.)
2. The dog \_\_\_\_\_ out of its collar. (*slip*, pres. perf.)
3. The waters of the lake \_\_\_\_\_ in the sunlight. (*sparkle*, pres. perf.)
4. The tulips \_\_\_\_\_ before the frost. (*sprout*, past perf.)
5. Native Americans \_\_\_\_\_ a basketball-like game for many years. (*play*, pres. perf.)
6. If you \_\_\_\_\_, you would have had a better view. (*move*, past perf.)
7. If I \_\_\_\_\_ it before, I wouldn't have to hunt for it now. (*notice*, past perf.)
8. When you \_\_\_\_\_ the package, will you open it? (*obtain*, pres. perf.)
9. Simon \_\_\_\_\_ toward running the race. (*lean*, past perf.)
10. The dog \_\_\_\_\_ the cat once before. (*harm*, pres. perf.)
11. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ my hat before I could react. (*grab*, past perf.)
12. When you \_\_\_\_\_ it, did the model shine? (*clean*, past perf.)