

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer Key**

# Helping vs. Linking Verbs

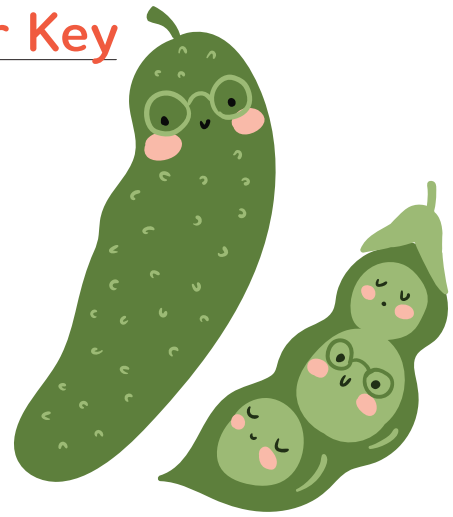
Most people think of verbs as action words, and they are!

Some common action verbs are **run, talk, walk, say, look,** and **sing**.

There are other, less known verbs that don't show action.

They help the other words in the sentence fit together.

They are called **helping verbs** and **linking verbs**.



## Helping Verbs

Helping verbs work with action verbs to add meaning to them. They tell expectation, obligation, probability, potential or necessity (**is, has, does, can, could, must, be, are, have, do, will, would, may, been, am, had, did, shall, should, might, being, was,** and **were**).

**Example:** I should **eat** my vegetables.

## Linking Verbs

A linking verb is a non-action verb (sometimes called a state-of-being verb) that connects the subject of a sentence to the predicate (**seems, becomes, feels, appears, be, been, being, is, am, are, was,** and **were**).

**Example:** I am late.

I. In each sentence below, tell whether the verb is action or linking.

1. I will finish my homework. helping
2. I was tired. linking
3. I might be late to the party. helping
4. I am so hot! linking
5. It is an oven in here. linking
6. I should do my chores. helping

II. Now, write three sentences of your own that include helping verbs and action verbs.

1. I should run the five mile race.
2. We might make that recipe again.
3. Delaney will register for classes tomorrow.

**Sample Answers**

III. Last, write three sentences of your own that have linking verbs.

1. Claire is frustrated.
2. The show was cancelled.
3. The snow did melt.

