

Using Action Verbs

It is important to understand the difference between action verbs and the verb “to be” in writing. All action verbs show *action*. The verb “to be” is a *stative verb*, which means that it describes a state of being – **is, am, are, was, were**.

It’s okay to use stative verbs, but your writing will shine when you use action verbs instead of passive verbs.

Practice editing the sentences below by changing the “to be” verb to an action verb.

Sample sentence: The children are on the playing field.
 The children run on the playing field.

1. While waiting in line at the fair, my father was on his cell phone.

2. The crayons were on the floor in a big mess.

3. I made a funny face because the light was in my eyes.

4. We were on the leather couch.

Find and circle the correct action verb in each sentence below.

1. The mermaid swam away.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| A. mermaid | C. away |
| B. swam | D. The |

2. Jerry hit a home run.

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| A. Jerry | C. run |
| B. hit | D. home |

3. She pushed the yellow button.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| A. button | C. pushed |
| B. yellow | D. she |

4. The wind blew the leaves.

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| A. wind | C. blew |
| B. yellow | D. the |

