

**LESSON 15****Action Verbs and State of Being Verbs**

A **verb** is a word used to express action or a state of being. An **action verb** may express physical action or mental action. The action may or may not be one that you see—but, either way, an action verb tells you that something is happening, has happened, or will happen.

**EXAMPLES**

- physical action** Tired miners **dug** for gold.  
The owls **hooted** all night.
- mental action** Nadine **daydreamed** about summer days at the beach.  
Mercer **thought** about the science assignment that was due on Tuesday.

A state of being verb does not tell about an action. A **state of being verb** tells you when and where someone or something exists. State of being verbs are usually formed from the verb *to be*.

**Forms of Be**

am    are    be    been    being    is    was    were

**EXAMPLES**

I **am** in school.  
Christmas **is** here.

**EXERCISE 1****Identifying Action Verbs and State of Being Verbs in Literature**

Tell whether each of the underlined verbs is an action verb or a state of being verb. Write your answers on the corresponding lines.

That was the first afternoon with my new jacket. The next day I wore it to sixth grade and got a D on a math quiz. During the morning recess Frankie T., the playground terrorist, pushed me to the ground and told me to stay there until recess was over. My best friend, Steve Negrete, ate an apple while looking at me, and the girls turned away to whisper on the monkey bars. The teachers were no help: they looked my way and talked about how foolish I looked in my new jacket. I saw their heads bob with laughter, their hands half-covering their mouths.

*from "The Jacket," page 263  
Gary Soto*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE 2

### Understanding Action Verbs and State of Being Verbs

Complete each of the following sentences. Include in the predicate an action verb or state of being verb, as indicated.

#### EXAMPLES

The dill bread (state of being verb)

The dill bread *is over there*.

Many people (action verb)

Many people *heard* about the new invention.

1. The mongoose (state of being verb)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. A cobra (action verb)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The starlings (state of being verb)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Our school orchestra (action verb)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. A flock of sheep (action verb)

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Her new shoes (state of being verb)

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Flower gardens (action verb)

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The twelve muffins (state of being verb)

\_\_\_\_\_

