

Linking Verbs

12c. A **linking verb** is a verb that expresses a state of being. A linking verb connects, or links, the subject to a word or word group that identifies or describes the subject.

LINKING VERB Your painting **is** beautiful!

Some verbs may be either action verbs or linking verbs, depending on how they are used.

ACTION VERB Paco **tasted** the soup.

LINKING VERB Those vegetables **tasted** fresh.

EXERCISE A Underline the linking verb in each of the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow showing which words are joined by the linking verb.

Example 1. The old house looked deserted.

- The huge diamond mine is now a museum.
- The computerized voice sounds human to me.
- After the storm, the islanders grew nervous at the sight of all the dark clouds.
- Some of the bristlecone pine trees are very old.
- The farm animals looked quite content.

EXERCISE B Underline the verbs in the following sentences. Then, identify each as an action verb or a linking verb by writing above it *A* for *action verb* or *L* for *linking verb*.

Example 1. Aaron Burr was the third Vice President of the United States.

- Burr became one of the most colorful characters in U.S. history.
- Burr came from a well-known Puritan family.
- At age twenty-one, he was a commanding officer of an entire regiment.
- He resigned in 1779 because of ill health.
- Later, Burr practiced law.
- He almost always looked wealthy and successful.
- Burr and Alexander Hamilton were longtime enemies.
- Burr fought a duel with Hamilton.
- Hamilton died from his wound.
- Burr's political career was soon over.

3. I wondered why.
4. Later, he told me about his plan.
5. He knew of a market for these beautiful leaves.
6. A local craft shop buys the leaves for craft classes.
7. For example, the class on greeting cards uses colorful leaves regularly.
8. The art classes always want leaves, too.
9. Artists incorporate the foliage into collages.
10. People enjoy the “back to nature” tone of this artwork.

EXERCISE B

11. I remember my great-grandmother’s recipe for gumbo.
12. The shrimp, vegetables, and spices simmer together.
13. I always drop a little hot pepper sauce into the pot.
14. Meanwhile, white rice steams until tender.
15. I prefer this mild rice along with the spicy gumbo.

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EXERCISE A

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2. The computerized voice sounds human to me.

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EXERCISE B

6. Burr became one of the most colorful characters in U.S. history.
7. Burr came from a well-known Puritan family.
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9. He resigned in 1779 because of ill health.
10. Later, Burr practiced law.
11. He almost always looked healthy and successful.
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13. Burr fought a duel with Hamilton.
14. Hamilton died from his wound.
15. Burr’s political career was soon over.

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EXERCISE A

1. Perhaps we should learn more about birthday celebrations in various countries.
2. Mexicans will sometimes buy a piñata for a birthday party.