A *verb* is a word used to express action, condition, or a state of being.

An *action verb* expresses a physical or mental action. An action verb that appears with a direct object (a person or thing that receives the action of the verb) is called a *transitive verb*. An action verb without a direct object is an *intransitive verb*.

A *linking verb* links the subject of a sentence to a word in the predicate. Some linking verbs are forms of *to be*, such as *am, is, was,* and *were*. Others, such as *appear, become, feel, look, remain, sound,* and *taste,* may express conditions. Some verbs such as *grow, feel,* and *taste* can be either action or linking verbs.

**Auxiliary verbs**, also called *helping verbs*, are combined with verbs to form *verb phrases*. Some common auxiliary verbs are forms of *be*, and *had, do, might, would, will, must, could,* and *would*.

**A. Identifying Verbs**
Underline the verb or verb phrase in each sentence. In the space above each verb, write **A** if it is an action verb, **L** if it is a linking verb, or **AUX** if it is an auxiliary verb.

1. Bonnie and Clyde were famous bank robbers during the 1930s.
2. In only two years, they killed a dozen innocent people.
3. They were wanted by the law for a variety of crimes.
5. She and Clyde were traveling all over Texas together.
6. However, the life of a criminal is often harsh and short.
7. Bonnie was seriously injured in an auto accident at one point.
8. Clyde treated her at home without the help of doctors or hospitals.
9. Just before her death, Bonnie looked sick and old.
10. Bonnie and Clyde died in a hail of bullets during a police ambush in 1934.

**B. Identifying Transitive and Intransitive Verbs**
Underline the verb or verb phrase in each sentence. If the verb has a direct object, underline it twice. On the line, write **T** for a transitive verb and **I** for an intransitive verb.

1. Modern banks use the latest technology for surveillance of their offices.
2. Hidden cameras can videotape robbers without their knowledge.
3. Silent alarms notify police of a robbery attempt immediately.
4. Armed guards sometimes stand at the doors to the bank.
5. Convicted criminals pay for their crimes with years behind bars.
A. Identifying Verbs
Underline each verb once. If the verb has a direct object, underline the direct object twice. On the line, write T for transitive and I for intransitive.

1. The network canceled the show. ________
2. The pomegranate originated in Persia or Afghanistan. ________
3. Dogs have keen senses of hearing and smell. ________
4. The Egyptians used a uniform system of measurement. ________
5. Luckily, hard ice forms quickly over northern lakes. ________
6. Bees make 80,000 trips for a single pound of honey. ________
7. Of course, Hollywood attracts job seekers by the thousands. ________
8. In the fall, salmon spawn in the Sacramento River of California. ________
9. The classical music was coming from the next room. ________
10. Put mustard on the hot dog, please. ________

B. Using Action and Linking Verbs
Complete each of the following sentences with an appropriate action or linking verb. Then, in the lines, identify each verb you have used by writing A for action or L for linking.

1. The robbers ______________________ the train just before the bridge. ________
2. They ______________________ both skilled and ruthless. ________
3. The robbers ______________________ this job for months before this date. ________
4. Special bags on the train ______________________ over seven million dollars! ________
5. The thieves ______________________ the last car of the train. ________
6. The engineer ______________________ frightened. ________
7. Quickly, the robbers ______________________ the money bags off the train. ________
8. They ______________________ the money and went their separate ways. ________
9. At their hideout, some of the robbers ______________________ nervous. ________
10. They ______________________ at the sight of a low-flying plane and abandoned the farm. ________
11. Most of them ______________________ long prison terms for the robbery. ________
12. Investigators never ______________________ the money. ________
Lesson 4

Verbs

A. Writing with Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Use a form of each of the verbs listed below in two sentences, first as an intransitive verb and then as a transitive verb. Remember that a transitive verb must have a direct object.

**EXAMPLE**
swim (intransitive)  What is swimming in this pond?
(transitive)  I swim 20 laps every day.

1. study:  (intransitive) ______________________________________________________________
   (transitive) ________________________________________________________________

2. eat:  (intransitive) ______________________________________________________________
   (transitive) ________________________________________________________________

3. sail:  (intransitive) ______________________________________________________________
   (transitive) ________________________________________________________________

4. drive:  (intransitive) ______________________________________________________________
   (transitive) ________________________________________________________________

5. play:  (intransitive) ______________________________________________________________
   (transitive) ________________________________________________________________

B. Proofreading

The writer of this paragraph was careless and omitted many verbs. Proofread the paragraph. Wherever a verb is missing, insert this proofreading symbol ^ and write an action verb, a linking verb, or an auxiliary verb above it.

**EXAMPLE**
A traitor is someone who betrays his or her country.
The most famous traitor in American history Benedict Arnold. Arnold once a trusted general in the American army. He his bravery in a number of dangerous battles against the British. He even injured seriously in defense of his country. At one point, however, he was passed over for a promotion to major general and resentful. Later, he reprimanded by George Washington for actions that his critics opposed. Angry and bitter, Arnold with British forces in a plan to force the military base at West Point, New York, to surrender. The plan was discovered, and Arnold to New York City where he joined the British Army. Although he acres of land in Canada, he spent his last years in the West Indies, despised by the citizens of his own country.