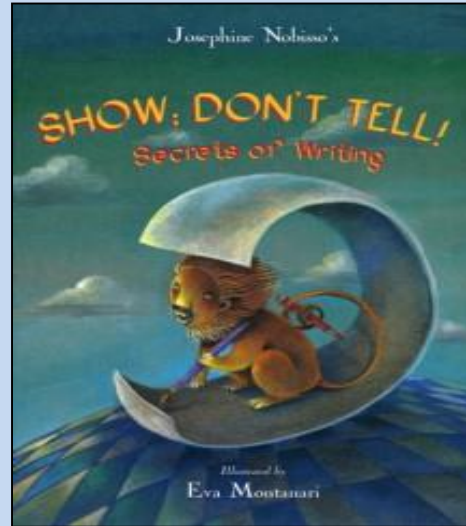


Vocabulary Collectors

Activity #5 Showing Sentences



Show; Don't Tell!

Showing sentences **SHOW** ideas by making their readers ***infer*** more, which is what real writers do!

Meaningful writing activity = showing sentences

Showing Sentences

- We have different types of **verbs** in our language.

Transitive and intransitive verbs: also called **action verbs**

- they show the sentence's subject doing an action

Ex: run, skip, flit, jump, wiggle

Linking verbs: small group of verbs are not action verbs;

- they link subject to a descriptive word (like an adjective) or to a label: **was, were, are.**

***When writing **showing sentences** you use **only action verbs**, not a linking verbs.

Showing Sentences

Let's start with the LINKING VERBS since there are not very many of them.

<u>Most Common Linking Verbs</u>		<u>Sometimes these are Linking</u>	
present tense	past tense	present tense	past tense
am, is	was	smell, smells	smelled
are	were	taste, tastes	tasted
am being, is being	was being	feel, feels	felt
have been, has been	had been	sound, sounds	sounded
become, becomes	became	look, looks	looked
seem, seems	seemed	appear, appears	appeared



These are pretty much ALWAYS linking verbs.



These can trickily be used as action verbs OR as linking verbs.

Meaningful writing activity = showing sentences

Showing Sentences

Memorize the first five linking verbs!

LINKING VERB SENTENCES:

The man **was** exhausted.

The student **was being** silly.

He **became** bitter after the test.

I **have been** thorough today.

You will **become** happier at noon.

She **seemed** irritated with me.

We **are** so thrilled to see you.

They **had been** secretive about it.

Although these eight sentence examples might *imply* action, the subjects of the sentences are really not doing anything; the subjects are existing in *a state of being linked* to a descriptive word. Can you substitute the highlighted linking verb with an action verb and the sentence will make sense? **No!**

Showing Sentences

Compare these sentences:

ACTION VERB SENTENCES:

The man **yawned** uncontrollably.

The student **danced** on the desktop.

He **glared** when he saw his grade.

I **completed** my work meticulously.

At lunch, you will finally **smile**.

She **spoke** to me with harsh tones.

We **cheered** at your arrival.

They **hid** the truth for years and years.

LINKING VERB SENTENCES:

The man **was** **exhausted**.

The student **was** **being** **silly**.

He **became** **bitter** after the test.

I **have** **been** **thorough** today.

You will **become** **happier** at noon.

She **seemed** **irritated** with me.

We **are** so **thrilled** to see you.

They **had** **been** **secretive** about it.

Showing Sentences

The **red** words from before can become adjectives in **SHOWING** sentences:

Exhausted and sleep-deprived, the man **yawned** uncontrollably.

The **silly** student **danced** on his desktop, waving his arms wildly.

He **glared** **bitterly** at the teacher when he saw his grade.

I **completed** my work meticulously and **thoroughly**.

At lunch, you will finally **smile** because you will have completed the difficult task.

Showing **irritation**, she **spoke** to me with harsh tones.

We **cheered** at your arrival, **thrilled** that you had come home for the summer.

They **hid** the truth and their **secrets** from us for years and years.

Why Use Showing Sentences?

- If you practice writing verb-inspired **showing sentences** with high-quality adjectives, then you'll learn to *craft* sentences so they don't sound flat.
- Too many sentences in a row with **linking verbs** will make your writing dull or flat. Good verbs can revive flat writing; **action verbs** are good verbs.
- The purpose of a **showing sentence** is to demonstrate both good action verb use as well as good use of descriptive modifiers, like adjectives and adverbs.

Verbs that can be linking verbs OR action verbs

Question 1: Which sentence has an **action verb** and which sentence has a **linking verb**?

The blind woman **felt**
awful on the airplane.
Linking verb!

The blind woman **felt** the
wing of the airplane.
Action verb!

Sometimes these are Linking

present tense	past tense
smell, smells	smelled
taste, tastes	tasted
feel, feels	felt
sound, sounds	sounded
look, looks	looked
appear, appears	appeared

These can be used as action
verbs OR as linking verbs.

Question 2: Which sentence has an **action verb** and which sentence has a **linking verb**?

The magician **appeared** impatient with his assistant. Linking verb!

The magician **appeared** suddenly alongside his assistant. Action verb!

Sometimes these are Linking

present tense	past tense
smell, smells	smelled
taste, tastes	tasted
feel, feels	felt
sound, sounds	sounded
look, looks	looked
appear, appears	appeared

These can be used as action verbs OR as linking verbs.

Question 3: Which sentence has an **action verb** and which sentence has a **linking verb**?

In his garden, my grandfather **smelled** bad.

Linking verb!

With flowers close to the ground, my grandfather **smelled** badly.

Action verb!

Sometimes these are
Linking

present tense

past tense

smell, smells

smelled

taste, tastes

tasted

feel, feels

felt

sound, sounds

sounded

look, looks

looked

appear, appears

appeared

These can be used as action verbs OR as linking verbs.

Question 4: Which sentence has an **action verb** and which sentence has a **linking verb**?

The principal **looked** upset with us for making such noise. Linking verb!

The principal **looked** up at the set of students in the bleachers. Action verb!

Sometimes these are
Linking

present tense	past tense
smell, smells	smelled
taste, tastes	tasted
feel, feels	felt
sound, sounds	sounded
look, looks	looked
appear, appears	appeared

These can be used as action verbs OR as linking verbs.

Transitive Verbs

Has 2 characteristics:

- is an action verb, expressing a doable activity like *kick, want, paint, write, eat, clean*, etc.
- Second, must have a direct object, something or someone who receives the action of the verb.
- Simply put - an object is receiving the action of the verb

Transitive Verbs

Examples:

1. Sylvia ***kicked*** Juan under the table.

Kicked = transitive verb; ***Juan*** = direct object.

2. Alicia ***wrote*** a love poem on a restaurant napkin.

Wrote = transitive verb; ***poem*** = direct object.

Transitive Verbs

Examples:

I baked some cookies.

**The action word is
followed by a NOUN!**

I rode the bicycle.

I moved the chair.

I stitched a quilt.

_____ = transitive verb; _____ = direct object (noun)

Intransitive Verbs

- When **NO** direct object follows an action verb, the verb is intransitive.
- they do not have an object receiving the action.

Examples:

I laughed.

I cried.

The book fell.

The horse galloped.

The sun set.

Intransitive Verbs

John is not sleeping *something*. He is simply sleeping. Intransitive!

I am not weeping *something*. I am just weeping. Intransitive!

Intransitive verbs - No NOUN follows the action word!

Showing Sentences Criteria:

The sentence(s)...

- ☐ must feature the vocabulary word (or a form of it)
- ☐ should **only** use action verbs
- ☐ uses NO linking verbs **was, were, am, are, is**
- ☐ should be descriptive and detail-filled (*highlight or bold the adjectives*)
- ☐ should use **at least 2** action verbs
- ☐ should have the action words underlined

Example:

impromptu (*adj.*) — done without being planned or rehearsed.

noun form: *impromptu* too!

Showing sentence: The **dark**, **relaxed** theater resounded with **loud** applause after the **energetic** actor put on an **unexpected** **impromptu** act for us.



Examples:

tumult (*noun*) — a loud, confused noise, especially coming from a mass of people.

adjective form: *tumultuous*

adverb form: *tumultuously*

Showing sentence: The **tumult** began with that **single red** grape that soared through the **thin** air and plunked in my enemy's **delicious** soup.



(found in When the Sleeper Wakes, page 206.)

Vocabulary Collectors

Vocabulary Showing Sentences Rubric:

4 points	3 points
The showing sentence does all :	The showing sentence does three :
The sentence is complex and only uses action verbs.	The sentence is complex and only uses action verbs.
The sentence has two solid context clues/hints about the word's meaning.	The sentence has two solid context clues/hints about the word's meaning.
Two action verbs have been underlined.	Two action verbs have been underlined.
Writing conventions are mostly minded.	Writing conventions are mostly minded.

Check out the following student samples.
Decide if they should earn a 3 or a 4:

Online Student Samples to Analyze:

[Sample #1 – Victoria](#)

[Sample #2 - Jacie](#)

[Sample #3 - Elias](#)

[Sample #4 – Lexxie](#)

[Sample #5 - Tyler](#)

Encourage Your Teacher to Join:

Our [Vocabulary Collectors Page](#) at our [Ning](#) allows any teacher to post his/her students' vocab samples.

In the following examples, what two action verbs would you underline to give the writer full credit? What is each writer's best context clue?

Meaningful writing activity = showing sentences