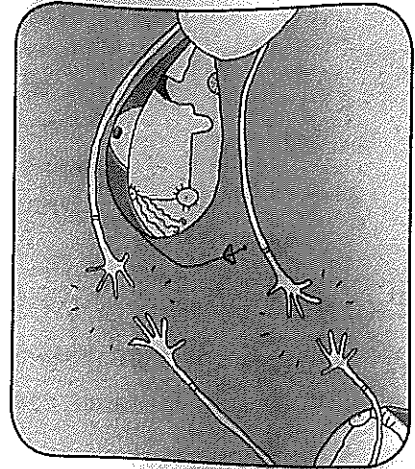


Verbs 2

Swing, shimmy, and shuffle are lively, active words. They are fun to say and fun to use in your writing. These lively words have one important thing in common: they can all be used as **action verbs**. Not all verbs are action packed. Words like *is, are, was, and were* are called **linking verbs** because they “link” subjects to nouns or adjectives. Notice how these verbs work in the following examples. (See 718.1–718.2 in *Write Source* for more about these verbs.)



Examples

Joe expertly **swung** Debbie into the air at the last dance.

(The action verb “swung” describes what Joe did, and it brings the sentence to life.)

Joe and Debbie **are** good dancers.

(“Are” is a linking verb that links the subject “Joe and Debbie” to “dancers.”)

Directions

Underline the verb with two lines in each of the following sentences. Label each action verb with an “A” and each linking verb with an “L.” The first two have been done for you.

1. The students ^A entered the dance through the gym door.
2. The decorations ^L were colorful streamers of crepe paper.
3. Our dance began right after school.
4. The theme of our dance was “Friends Forever.”
5. Most of the students attended the dance.
6. Our disc jockey played a lot of oldies.
7. Most of us were very nervous at the beginning of the dance.
8. One of the chaperons arranged us in pairs to dance.
9. Larry and Jack hid from the “matchmaker.”
10. Robert was the only nondancer in the group.

Directions

In the sentences below, underline each verb with two lines. Label each action verb with an "A" and each linking verb with an "L." The first sentence has been done for you. *Note:* Many of the sentences below are either compound or complex sentences, which means they contain more than one verb. See the examples below as well as the ones in *Write Source*.

Examples

Because the gym ^L was so hot, we ^A drank a lot of soda.

(A complex sentence contains two clauses.)

We ^A had fun, though, and the disc jockey ^A told great jokes!

(A compound sentence contains two clauses.)

1. After the dance, we ^A walked toward the beach.
2. We were hungry, so we stopped at a restaurant.
3. Our waitress was friendly, and she asked us about the dance.
4. Larry told her that he was the best dancer there.
5. We all laughed, because Larry is a terrible dancer.
6. Down at the beach, the surf sounded louder than usual.
7. According to Debbie, the TV news predicted a storm.
8. Rick said that the storm was Larry's fault.
9. "Your lousy dancing started a storm, Larry!"
10. Everyone laughed at the joke, including Larry.

Next Step Write three sentences about your own dancing experiences. (If you've never been to a dance, how about a birthday party with dancing?) Underline and label ("A" or "L") the verbs in your sentences. Share your results.