Linking/Action Verbs Practice

Definitions

**Action Verb:** A verb that shows action. It may or may not have a noun or pronoun following it that receives the action of the verb (direct object).

**Linking Verb:** A linking verb is a verb that links a word in the predicate to the subject. That word will either be a noun (predicate noun), which will rename the subject or an adjective (predicate adjective), which will describe the subject. Common linking verbs are the following: **is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been.** However, when paired with an action verb, these same words are called helping verbs.

There are some words (sense words) that will be linking or action verbs depending on how they are used in a sentence. For example:

*Mary seems to like the house.*
Seems is an action verb, but there is no direct object here.

*The house seems large.*
Seems is a linking verb - large is a predicate adjective that describes the subject, house.

These are the verbs that could be action or linking verbs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>appear</th>
<th>look</th>
<th>sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>become</td>
<td>seem</td>
<td>stay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feel</td>
<td>remain</td>
<td>taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grow</td>
<td>smell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Practice Exercise Directions:** Begin by crossing out the prepositional phrase(s) in each sentence. Then, underline the verb in each of the following sentences. Above the verb, write AV for action verb or LV for linking verb. Lastly, diagram each sentence only for the subject, linking verb or action verb, and either the direct object or PN or PA. Remember a PA or PN will never have a direct object. The first one is completed for you.
1. The ghost appeared in the doorway.

2. The child appeared tired.

3. Bill became the president of the student council.

4. The cloth on the table felt soft and fuzzy.

5. Jeannie grows taller every day.

6. The tree grows every day.

7. John felt sick after lunch.

8. The leftover food from the picnic smelled rotten.

9. Steve smelled the flowers.

10. Please stay in the house.

11. Mom tasted the soup.

12. The soup tasted salty.


15. The radio sounded the emergency alarm.

B. Fill in the blank with the correct response.

1. A linking verb is a verb that links a word in the ____________ to the subject.

2. A linking verb will always be followed by either a predicate ____________
or a predicate ________________.

3. Predicate nominative is just another way of saying predicate ____________.

4. Direct objects, predicate adjectives, and predicate nouns are all considered _________________ of a subject.

5. What are two steps to figuring out whether a verb is a linking verb?
   a.
   b.

6. Can a linking verb also have a helping verb? _____yes _____no

7. Can a linking verb ever have a direct object? _____yes _____no

8. In order to have a direct object, you must have a transitive action verb? _____yes _____no

9. Do all action verbs have to have a direct object? _____yes _____no

10. Can an action verb have more than one helping verb? _____yes _____no

11. Draw the template for diagramming a S-V-DO sentence.

12. Draw the template for diagramming a S-V-PA/PN sentence.