

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light beige or cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of the words "The Book of Grammar" in a small, light brown font. The spiral binding is on the left side, made of a dark metal. The text is centered on the cover.

The Book of Grammar
Lesson Seven

Mr. McBride
AP Language and Composition

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By the end of this lesson you should know:

- What a verb is
 - Action verbs
 - Linking verbs
- What a verb phrase is
- The five basic verb forms: *infinitive*, *present*, *present participle*, *past*, and *past participle*

What is the definition of a verb?

- A *verb* is a word that expresses action or helps to make a statement.

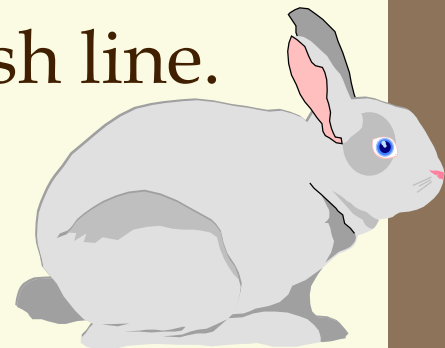
VERB

Action Verbs

- An action verb expresses an action. Just remember that such things as thinking and believing are actions, and you will have no trouble recognizing action verbs:

→ The rabbit *knew* he could win the race.

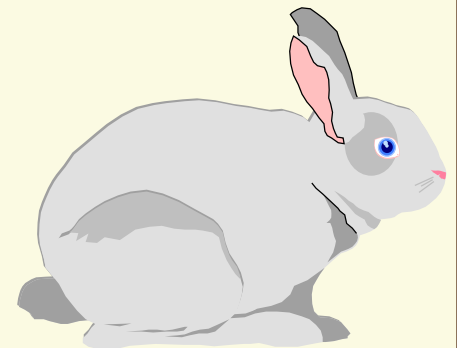
→ The rabbit *stopped* before the finish line.



Linking Verbs

- Linking verbs are also called *state-of-being* verbs. They help to make a statement by acting as a link between two words. In most cases, linking verbs are a form of *to be*.

→ The rabbit *was* overconfident.



Other Common Linking Verbs

Some verbs that are not forms of *to be* can act as linking verbs as well. The following are often, but not always, linking verbs.

appear	look	sound
become	remain	stay
feel	seem	taste
grow	smell	

Look as a linking and action verb

- Note the subtle difference between the use of *look* in the following sentences:
 - John looked bored during the grammar lesson.
 - John looked out the window during the grammar lesson.
- In which sentence is *look* an action verb? In which sentence is *look* a linking verb?

More example of linking verbs...

- You look tired.
- Arnold seemed angry.
- Jane appeared excited.
- Henry feels good.
- He became overconfident.
- It sounded enjoyable.

The Verb Phrase

- A verb frequently has one or more helping verbs, also called auxiliary verbs. The verb and its helping verbs work together as a unit called a *verb phrase*.
- Commonly used helping verbs are: *to be* (in all its forms), *will, shall, has, have, had, can, could, may, might, must, ought, should, would, do, does, did*.

Examples of the verb phrase...

- The boys had been playing football.
- A large ship was lying in the harbor.
- Very few people would enjoy such a long journey.
- Joan is relieved when she hears the news.
- I did clean the carburetor.
- Will you wash the car tomorrow?

There are five basic forms of a verb:

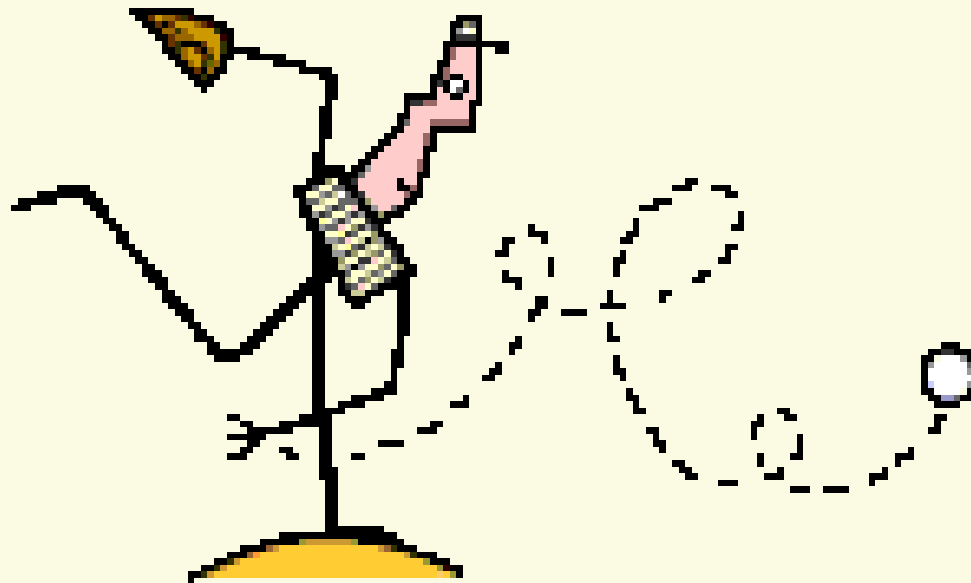
- The five forms are the *infinitive*, the *present*, the *past*, the *present participle*, and the *past participle*. The infinitive and participle forms are not technically verbs, but *verbals*.
 - The verb *to swim*, for example has these five forms: *to swim* (infinitive), *swim* (present), *swam* (past), *swimming* (present participle), and *swum* (past participle).

Okay, but what is a *participle*?

- A participle has the characteristics of both a verb and an adjective. It is a verbal form that has the function of an adjective and at the same time shows such verbal features as tense and voice and the capacity to take an object.
 - If you need a helping verb to use a verb form in a sentence it is a *participle*. Try to use swimming or swum as a verb in a sentence without a helping verb.

Irregular Verb Forms

- Irregular verb forms don't follow any set pattern in creating the present, past, and past participle forms.



Some common irregular verb forms:

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
Swim	Swimming	Swam	Swum
Go	Going	Went	Gone
See	Seeing	Saw	Seen
Begin	Beginning	Began	Begun
Blow	Blowing	Blew	Blown
Drink	Drinking	Drank	Drunk
Fall	Falling	Fell	Fallen
Give	Giving	Gave	Given
Ring	Ringling	Rang	Rung

Regular Verb Forms

- With regular verbs, the past participle is formed by the addition of *ed*, just like the past form:
 - walk, walking, walked, (have) walked
- One can only determine whether or not a word ending in *ed* is a participle in the context of the sentence.
 - They walked home. *past tense*
 - They have walked home from the restaurant. *past participle*

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The end of Lesson Seven

