

QUICK CLUES TO ENGLISH

LBCC Developmental Studies

Action Verbs

Verbs that show action even though some of the actions cannot be seen are called **action verbs**.

Note: To identify the verbs, we have double underlined them.

Maria practices her flute every day.

Maria believes in herself.

Linking Verbs

Verbs that connect the subject to a word or words that either rename or describe the subject are called **linking verbs**.

Common linking verbs: *am, is, are, was, were, be, been*

Linda Foster is my friend.

Sandy was happy.

Helping Verbs

Verbs that appear in front of the main verb are called **helping verbs** and are underlined twice as part of the complete verb.

Common helping verbs: *can, could, should, would, may, might, will, shall, must, have, has, and had*

Valerie will run in the race.

Valerie might be running in the New York Marathon next year.

Valerie could have been running in the New York Marathon next year.

Compound Verbs

When you have two or more verbs, you have a **compound verb**.

Ted washed and dried his clothes.

He opened the washer and placed his clothes in the dryer.

He has folded his clothes, has ironed the wrinkled ones, and has driven home.

Compound Sentences

When you have two or more independent clauses joined together, you have a **compound sentence**.

Ted washed the clothes, **but** John dried the clothes.

Ted washed and dried the clothes, **but** John ironed them.

Notice how the first independent clause in the sentence above has a compound verb.

Ted washed the clothes, John dried the clothes, **and** Mary ironed the clothes.

Helpful Hints for Finding the Verb

Adverbs are not verbs.

Common adverbs: *not, never, quickly, always, very*

Valerie might not be running in the New York Marathon.

Valerie is always calling her boyfriend.

Some words **can be verbs** in one independent clause and a **subject** in another.

I jog every Saturday. (“jog” is a verb)

My jog was fun. (“jog” is a subject)