## **Action Verb Or Linking Verb?**

Some verbs can be action or linking depending on how they are used in a sentence. Examples of these words include taste, smell, appear, look, feel, and sound.

How do you tell the difference? Easy! Replace the word with am, is, are, was, or were. If the sentence still makes sense, the word is being used as a linking verb. If the sentence doesn't make sense, the word is being used as an action verb.

examples:

Sentence: Sam <u>looked</u> tired.

Test: Sam <u>was</u> tired.

Conclusion: Makes sense. Looked is a linking verb.

**Sentence:** Sam <u>looks</u> at every book carefully.

**Test:** Sam <u>is</u> at the book carefully.

**Conclusion:** Does not make sense. Looks is an action verb.



Write an A on the blank line if the underlined word is an action verb. Write an L on the blank line if the underlined word is a linking verb.

1	I <u>felt</u> angry after my sister dropped the last piece of cake on the floor.
2	Maria felt the straps to make sure they were fastened correctly.
3	The guard sounded the alarm when the enemy approached.
4	That <u>sounds</u> like an excellent idea.
5	The vegetable stew <u>tasted</u> too salty.
6	Alex <u>tasted</u> his dad's new chili recipe.
7	The old chest smelled moldy when I opened it.
8	The dog <u>smelled</u> my dirty clothes.
9	I <u>looked</u> across the fields to watch the hunters come home.
10	My sister <u>looked</u> pretty when she left for the dance.

## **ANSWER KEY**

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## examples:

Sentence: Sam <u>looked</u> tired.

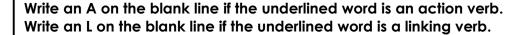
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- 1. I felt angry after my sister dropped the last piece of cake on the floor.
- 2. A Maria felt the straps to make sure they were fastened correctly.
- 3. A The guard sounded the alarm when the enemy approached.
- **4.** Lagrantian That sounds like an excellent idea.
- 5. L The vegetable stew <u>tasted</u> too salty.
- **6.** Alex <u>tasted</u> his dad's new chili recipe.
- 7. Let The old chest smelled moldy when I opened it.
- **8.** A The dog smelled my dirty clothes.
- **9.** I looked across the fields to watch the hunters come home.
- 10. L My sister looked pretty when she left for the dance.