

Linking Verbs

Some verbs don't talk about actions, but instead link the subject to an adjective (or other word or phrase) which gives us more information about the subject. These verbs are called linking verbs (or sometimes copula verbs).

These three verbs are always linking verbs in English:

Be	He is tall.
Seem	You seem sad.
Become	He became thin.

These verbs can be used as linking verbs, but sometimes they're normal verbs. Here are some examples of them being used as linking verbs:

Act	He acted happy, but actually he was really sad.
Appear	She appeared cold, so we took her inside.
Feel	I feel terrible today!
Get	It's getting warm. The spring is coming!
Go	The food went bad, because I forgot to put it in the fridge.
Grow	She grew tired.
Look	You look beautiful today!
Prove	He thought he was right, but he was proved wrong.
Remain	He remained calm. It was only a spider.
Smell	The meal smelled delicious.
Sound	The band sounded excellent.
Stay	He stayed curious all his life.
Taste	The milk tasted horrible.
Turn	The weather turned bad just as we were leaving.

Note: Linking verbs are not the same as stative verbs. Some linking verbs are stative, but some are not.

- I'm getting old (a linking verb but not a stative verb).
- The soup tastes good (a linking verb and a stative verb).
- I know Julie (stative verb but not a linking verb).