

LINKING VERBS

1) COMMON LINKING VERBS:

Be	Am
Is	Are
Was	Were
Shall be	Shall have been
Will be	Will have been
Has been	Have been
Had been	Can be
May be	Might be
Should be	Could be
Become	Would be
Appear	Seem

*Note: There are other combinations of some of these linking verbs--for example:

Has become	Could have come
Have appeared	Should have appeared
Had seemed	Should have been, etc.

2) SENSORY LINKING VERBS:

Look Smell Sound Taste Feel

3) LESS COMMON LINKING VERBS:

Grow Remain Prove Stay

4) LINKING VERBS are used by themselves (in contrast to helping verbs, which come before another verb: was running).

Linking verbs are usually followed by a subject complement--a noun, pronoun, or adjective that refers to and describes, or means the same as, the subject.

5) EXAMPLES OF COMMON LINKING VERBS (SC=subject complement):

SC
John is President.

SC
The dog was hungry.

SC
I will not be late.

SC
She seemed nervous.