# 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.