Recommended Companion Material

See our Companion Material recommendations on page 7 for great materials that complement Writing Skills.
VERBS

The predicate of a sentence always contains a word called a verb.

Verbs are words that show action or connect two ideas in a sentence.

Here are some examples of different types of verbs. These are examples of action verbs. They will tell what the subject does, did, or will do.

- **ate**  
  Mario *ate* three servings of broccoli.

- **travels**  
  The Smith family *travels* to Oregon every summer.

- **dance**  
  We *dance* together in the school play.

- **walked**  
  Mr. Long *walked* all the way to the grocery store.

- **slept**  
  I *slept* in a tent in the backyard.
There are other kinds of verbs called **linking verbs** and **helping verbs**. You will see these kinds of verbs often. These do not show action, but can be a very important part of a sentence.

Here are some common **linking verbs**. They link together the circled part of the sentence.

- **is**  
  Patty is my best friend.

- **am**  
  I am nervous about the test.

- **are**  
  We are third graders.

- **was**  
  Ms. Kim was an architect.

- **were**  
  You were very funny in the show.

Here are some common **helping verbs**. They help give meaning to the verbs that follow.

- **has**  
  Harry has sent me an e-mail.

- **have**  
  I have thought about the problem for a long time.

- **had**  
  We had looked everywhere for the keys.

- **can**  
  Sandra will ask the clerk for help.

- **will**  
  You can have some of my popcorn.
Read each sentence. Circle each action verb. Then write a sentence of your own using the action verb you circled.

1. They ran down the dirt road.

2. My neighbor mowed the lawn.

3. The man juggled five oranges.

4. The deer leaped over the fence.

5. Drink this glass of water.
Now you know about nouns and verbs. Can you tell whether each of these words is a noun or a verb? Write each word in the right column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>throw</th>
<th>apartment</th>
<th>New Jersey</th>
<th>went</th>
<th>dinosaur</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>see</td>
<td>ball</td>
<td>gave</td>
<td>yelled</td>
<td>sailing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frog</td>
<td>Matt</td>
<td>kicked</td>
<td>draws</td>
<td>rushed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone</td>
<td>erase</td>
<td>clothes</td>
<td>Maria</td>
<td>goldfish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Verbs</th>
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<tbody>
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Exercise 3

Now write five sentences using one word from each column. You may make the nouns singular or plural.

1. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
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3. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
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4. __________________________________________________________
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5. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
Recommended Companion Material

EPS offers a wide range of products and programs that complement the exercises and activities in Writing Skills. We recommend the following series to help students develop reading and comprehension skills.

Wordly Wise 3000
Grade Level/s: 2–12
Wordly Wise 3000, an EPS bestseller, develops vocabulary and comprehension skills for students in early elementary grades through high school. Each lesson features a word list, exercises that reinforce key vocabulary concepts, and a narrative that builds reading comprehension skills as students identify and apply words in context. The series also includes volumes of blackline master test booklets in state-standardized formats.

A Spelling Dictionary for Writers
Grade Level/s: 4–8
This comprehensive but accessible reference tool provides the correct spellings of more than 5,000 frequently used words. A thesaurus offers alternatives for overused words and expressions, and thematic lists help students write about the major curriculum areas. An excellent resource, A Spelling Dictionary improves students’ compositions and fosters competent and resourceful writers.

For more information about these series or to place an order, visit www.epsbooks.com or call 800.225.5750 to speak to a customer service representative.