



The Lantern English Co.
The Growing Writer

Growing Grammar I – Syllabus

Course Description: Writing isn't just about having good ideas. A good writer studies mechanics in order to write correctly, logically, and intelligently. This class covers the first five parts of speech (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) along with thorough instruction in verb tenses and simple sentence structure to help the student achieve better success in writing.

Course Outline:

Week One: Nouns & Pronouns

- A. Concrete & Abstract Nouns
- B. Common Nouns & Proper Nouns
- C. Plural Nouns & Possessive Nouns
- D. Nominative & Possessive Pronouns

Week Two: Action & Linking Verbs

Week Three: Helping Verbs

Week Four: Verb Tenses – Present, Past, Future

Week Five: The Sentence

- A. Subjects & Verbs
- B. The Simple Sentence
- C. Sentence Styles & End Marks
- D. The Sentence Fragment

Week Six: Adding on – Adjectives

Week Seven: Adding on – Adverbs

Week Eight: Final Review



Growing Grammar I – Grading Outline

All grammar classes will be graded based on the number of answers in each assignment. Assignments will not be graded on creativity or writing skills, as most of the assignments are technical. Assignments will be graded similar to a test or quiz. For example, if a student must underline ten nouns in an assignment and misses two, the student would receive an 80% on that assignment.

As there are numerous assignments in each lesson, the total number of required answers per lesson will be added up. Any incorrect answers will be subtracted from the score, and the grade will be given accordingly. For example, if there are 50 answers in a lesson, and a student misses 4, the grade is as follows:

$$50 - 4 = 46 \text{ points}$$

$$46/50 = 92\%$$

Course Components	Percentage of Final Grade
Weekly Assignments	70%
Final Test	30%

EXAMPLE

assignment grades: 70, 80, 90, 75, 87, 92, 94, 86 = 84%

average test grade: 94 %

$$.84 \times 70 = 58.8$$

$$.94 \times 30 = 28.2$$

FINAL GRADE: 87%



Growing Grammar I

Lesson Two: Action & Linking Verbs

SAMPLE LESSON

This week, we will learn about the **verb**. *A verb states an action, links another word to the subject, or helps another verb.* As you might already know, there are three types of verbs in the English language.

- Action verbs
 - Linking verbs
 - Helping verbs
-

NOTE: Verbs in their original form are called **infinitives**. An infinitive is a verb in its original form preceded by the preposition *to*. For example:

to go

to eat

to swim

to sleep

ACTION VERBS –

First, we will start with the **action verb**. *Actions verbs are verbs that describe action.* They tell us what the subject (the main noun or pronoun) of the sentence does. Some examples of actions verbs, in their infinitive form, are as follows:

TO SLEEP

TO GO

TO WORK

TO GIVE

TO CALL

TO WRITE

TO CUT

TO WATCH

TO PLANT

TO PLAY

Examples –

I sleep late every Saturday.

Mary went to church on Sunday.

Dad works very hard.

She gives her dog a bath.

The computer called the number for you.

We write letters to our grandparents.

They watch movies on Friday nights.

My brothers cut the grass last week.

Farmers plant seeds in the ground.

Joseph plays with his toys.

Assignment 2A: Read these ten sentences and underline the action verbs. Look for the word that states the action of the main noun in the sentence.

1. The athletes ran their races in the Olympics.
2. Jake called his father again after dinner.
3. My grandparents and I walked around the park this morning.
4. Clumsy and distracted, she tripped over her own two feet.
5. The kids played in the sprinkler after dinner.
6. Because of its age, our remote control broke.
7. Caleb accidentally ripped his uniform.
8. We ate ice cream sandwiches for dessert.
9. The train, full of cargo, chugged down the tracks.
10. The children, ages four through six, attentively worked on the puzzles.

LINKING VERBS –

Next, we will learn about **linking verbs**. *Linking verbs are different because they do not show action. Instead, they show a state of being.*

The linking verb links another word to the subject. Linking verbs always attach a renaming noun or a descriptive adjective to the main subject of the sentence.

- Molly *is* a girl. (*girl* renames *Molly*, to tell us what Molly is.)
- Henry *is* very hungry. (*hungry* describes *Henry*, to tell us what Henry is.)
- Mom *was* a nurse. (*nurse* renames *Mom*, to tell us what Mom was.)
- The food *tastes* delicious. (*delicious* describes *food*, to tell us how the food tastes.)

The most common linking verb is the verb TO BE. This includes the variations *am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been*. In addition, two other words should be included in this list: *become (becomes, became, becoming)* and *seem (seems, seemed)*. These two words are **always** linking verbs.

- I am a dancer.
- John is a teacher.
- We are tall.
- He was a doctor.
- The students were tired.
- She will be late.
- The dogs are being rambunctious.
- Grandma has been on vacation for several weeks.
- You will become better with practice.
- The idea seemed unlikely.

In all of these sentences, **we could replace the linking verb with an equal sign (=) because the subject is equal to the noun or adjective that describes it.**

- I = a dancer.
- John = a teacher.
- We = tall.
- He = a doctor.
- The students = tired.
- She = late.
- The dogs = rambunctious.
- Grandma = on vacation for several weeks.
- You = better with practice.
- The idea = unlikely.

Assignment 2B: Read these ten sentences and underline the linking verbs from the infinitives TO BE, TO BECOME, and TO SEEM. Remember to look for the word that connects a descriptive word to the main noun. (Use the list of linking verbs already provided to guide you.)

1. That movie was long.
2. Those couches seem expensive.
3. Is the lobby quite large?
4. His shirt was yellow.
5. These shoes are too small.
6. We are your parents.
7. I am a rock collector.
8. The road became slippery.
9. He will be a big brother soon.
10. The toy dinosaur was dirty.

There are other verbs that can be linking verbs, too. These verbs are ***appear, feel, get, grow, look, prove, remain, smell, stay, sound, taste, and turn.***

These verbs are sometimes linking verbs and sometimes action verbs. It all depends on how they are used in the sentence. We'll look at each verb and give two sentences - one showing the verb as a linking verb and the other showing the verb as an action verb.

<u>LINKING VERB</u>	<u>ACTION VERB</u>
The car <i>appears</i> blue, but it is really purple.	The car <i>appeared</i> from nowhere.
The fur coat <i>feels</i> very soft.	My hand <i>feels</i> the soft fur of the puppy.
The grass <i>gets</i> wet from the rain.	You will <i>get</i> a surprise soon.
The soup <i>grew</i> cold.	Farmer Brown <i>grows</i> tomatoes.
Mother <i>looked</i> sad when our dog was sick.	Mother <i>looked</i> for her keys.
The firecrackers <i>proved</i> to be dangerous.	The evidence <i>proves</i> that he is innocent.
We <i>remain</i> hopeful that he will come.	We will <i>remain</i> in this room.
The steak <i>smelled</i> delicious.	The dog <i>smelled</i> the steak.
The plant <i>stayed</i> small.	My grandparents <i>stay</i> with us.
The situation <i>sounded</i> very serious.	The fire alarm will <i>sound</i> in a fire.
The cake <i>tasted</i> terrible.	Shelly <i>tasted</i> the cake before serving it.
The milk <i>turned</i> yellow when it soured.	The car <i>turned</i> the corner.

Can you see how the verbs in the linking verb category can all be replaced with the = sign, but the verbs in the action verb category cannot be replaced with the = sign? Let us show you.

<u>LINKING VERB</u>	<u>ACTION VERB</u>
The car = blue, but it is really purple.	The car <i>appeared</i> from nowhere.
The fur coat = very soft.	My hand <i>feels</i> the soft fur of the puppy.
The grass = wet from the rain.	You will <i>get</i> a surprise soon.
The soup = cold.	Farmer Brown <i>grows</i> tomatoes.
Mother = sad when our dog was sick.	Mother <i>looked</i> for her keys.
The firecrackers = to be dangerous.	The evidence <i>proves</i> that he is innocent.
We = hopeful that he will come.	We will <i>remain</i> in this room.
The steak = delicious.	The dog <i>smelled</i> the steak.
The plant = small.	My grandparents <i>stay</i> with us.
The situation = very serious.	The fire alarm will <i>sound</i> in a fire.
The cake = terrible.	Shelly <i>tasted</i> the cake before serving it.
The milk = yellow when it soured.	The car <i>turned</i> the corner.

In the first column, the subjects are equal to the adjective or noun that follows the linking verb. In the second column, the subjects are doing an action.

Another difference to look for is this:

Linking Verb:

The cake *tasted* terrible.

Action Verb:

Shelly *tasted* the cake before serving it.

Does the cake have a tongue it can use to do the action of tasting? No, it does not. The verb *taste* in the first sentence must be a linking verb. However, Shelly does have a tongue to taste with and she used that tongue to do the action of tasting the cake. So, in the second sentence, *taste* is an action verb.

Assignment 2C: Read these ten sentences and underline the linking verbs. Remember, linking verbs include all forms of the verbs TO BE (*am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been*), TO BECOME, and TO SEEM. They can also include these verbs: *appear, feel, get, grow, look, prove, remain, smell, stay, sound, taste, and turn*.

1. The dog suddenly turned friendly.
2. The crowd remained calm during the fire chief's directions.
3. Claire looked queasy before she took to the ice for her figure skating test.
4. This shampoo smells wonderful.
5. Knives often grow dull from constant use.
6. You must stay calm in this situation.
7. The pizza, made by my dad, tasted so good!
8. The music sounds relaxing to the children.
9. Josiah looks confused about the situation.
10. The water feels too cool to go swimming.

Assignment 2D: Read each sentence and write whether the italicized verb is an action verb or a linking verb.

1. He *looked* up and down the street.
2. The music *sounded* brassy.
3. The food at the dinner party *tasted* wonderful.
4. This shirt *feels* comfortable.
5. The fireman *sounded* the alarm.
6. The tree *grows* new leaves in the spring.
7. That *sounds* fine to me.
8. Have you *smelled* that candle?
9. Please *stay* right there.
10. I *tasted* the broth before ladling it into bowls.
11. She *remained* unhappy despite the resolution.
12. Will you *look* at this picture for me?
13. The sun *appeared* out of nowhere.
14. How will you *prove* that the man is innocent?
15. She *looks* exhausted after a weekend of illness.