

## Exercise 19 (Grammar and Usage)

### Understanding Verbs: Part 1

Nouns are words that name persons, animals, places, or things. Verbs are usually action words, such as *jump*, *crawl*, *shout*, or *stagger*. They explain what the nouns are doing.

*EXAMPLE: Almost immediately the tiger attacked.*

Sometimes verbs explain what is happening in someone's mind.

*EXAMPLE: Sergeant Pellizari recognized the car instantly.  
Mark and I studied science last night.*

Some verbs that we use all the time do not show action. These verbs tell us that something *is*, *was*, or *will be*.

*EXAMPLE: Both Hannah and Sakina are in this race.  
My brother will be sixteen tomorrow.*

The most common nonaction verb is *be*. This verb has many different forms, such as *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, *shall be*, *will be*, *have been*, *has been*, and *had been*. Remember that every sentence must have at least one verb.

Circle the verb in each sentence.

1. All night the young coyote searched for its mother.
2. Instantly the eagle pounced on the young rabbit.
3. We scrambled quickly to the top of the rocky slope.
4. The explosion rattled the windows in the cabin.
5. Last night I dreamed about a flight in a space ship.
6. Gradually the strange machine squeaked to a stop.
7. My sister and her friends were in the middle of the mud puddle.
8. Suddenly a large rock crashed through the kitchen window.
9. The first helicopter landed within five minutes.
10. Erica and Alex played chess until ten o'clock.
11. The two elephants collided with a tremendous thud.
12. Without a sound the snake slithered into the tall grass.

