

NAME

Lesson 11.5.3 Verbs

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EXERCISE 1 Recognizing Verbs

In the paragraphs below, underline any action verbs once and any linking verbs twice.

¹In most towns in Europe during the Middle Ages, the building that stood taller than any other structure was the cathedral. ²These beautiful churches remain as evidence of the strong faith of the people who raised them. ³Western Europe experienced a cathedral building boom in the middle of the 12th century, and new churches appeared in many places. ⁴Building a cathedral required many different types of labor, skilled and unskilled. ⁵The unskilled laborers did the toughest work. ⁶Some went to the dense forests that were everywhere in medieval Europe and felled timber for the scaffolding that supported the cathedral walls as they were built. ⁷Other workers cut blocks of stone in nearby quarries. ⁸Yet another group of workers hauled these huge quantities of wood and stone overland (or floated them by barge if a river or stream was nearby) to the place where the cathedral would be. ⁹At the building site itself, a small army of skilled craftsmen used these and a variety of other materials in the construction of the cathedral. ¹⁰These craftsmen included masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, roofers, painters, sculptors, goldsmiths, glassmakers, leather workers, weavers, and others.

Remember that some action verbs can also be used as linking verbs. Such verbs are only linking verbs when they precede a word that identifies or describes the subject.

Linking verb:

He sees very poorly.

Action verb:

He sees the spire.

EXERCISE 2 Finding Verbs and Verb Phrases

In the following sentences, underline any verbs once. Underline any verb phrases twice.

EXAMPLE Why did the cathedral builders make the walls of their churches so high and thin?

1. The height was desired so that the eyes of worshippers would be drawn heavenward.
2. The cathedral builders wanted the windows as large as possible.
3. These large windows were glazed with the stained glass that is one of the glories of the Middle Ages.
4. Sunlight passed through this stained glass and scattered brilliant colors on the walls and floors of the cathedral.
5. Stained glass windows were painted with brilliant scenes from the Bible and the lives of the saints that would have been “books” for those who could not read—nearly everyone in the Middle Ages.