

NAME

Lesson 9.5.3

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Verbs**EXERCISE 1 Finding Verbs and Verb Phrases**

In the following sentences, underline any verbs and verb phrases.

Hint: All these sentences have more than one verb.

EXAMPLE Why did scientists decide that Pluto no longer ranked as a planet?

Remember *not* (*n't* in a contraction) is never part of a verb phrase.

1. Scientists spent years in debate before they agreed on what makes a planet a planet.
2. I was surprised when I learned that this term had not been given an official definition before.
3. What characteristics do you think a planet must have?
4. A planet is an object that orbits the sun and is large enough so that the force of its own gravity gives it a round shape.
5. The new definition also says that a planet must “dominate” the area through which it moves as it orbits the sun.

EXERCISE 2 Identifying Action and Linking Verbs

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

EXAMPLE Scientists’ classifications of planets are complex.

¹When scientists say that a planet “dominates” the area through which it orbits, they mean that the planet is the largest object in the neighborhood. ²Pluto has the moon Charon. ³(Pluto appears as the ruler of the Underworld in Roman mythology, and Charon is the name of the ferryman who takes the souls of the dead across the River Styx.) ⁴Pluto’s moon Charon is more than half the size of the object it orbits. ⁵All true planets, like our own Earth, are far larger than their moons.

⁶Scientists examine another feature of an object in space when they decide if it “dominates” its area. ⁷Does the object’s gravity exercise enough attraction so that the orbiting body “sweeps” away small objects such as asteroids as it moves around the sun? ⁸In other words, is its orbit “tidy” enough to say that Pluto is a planet? ⁹Because its orbit seems messy, scientists have classified Pluto as only a “dwarf planet.” ¹⁰Pluto, however, is not alone; scientists have already discovered forty-four other “dwarf planets.”