

ACTIONS

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn about actions.
Key Goals	<p>Here is an outline of what you will learn today:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action verbs and non-action verbs 2. What actions do we often perform? 3. Common phrases

1. Action Verbs and Non-Action Verbs

Action verbs are also called “**dynamic verbs**”. They are used to refer to an action that a person, an animal or an object is performing or has performed.

Here are a few examples:

to sit		to run	
to lay		to walk	
to stand		to jump	

On the other hand, non-action verbs, also called “stative verbs” are more abstract and can refer to:

- Thoughts and feelings
To believe, to love, to prefer, to (dis)like, etc.
- Senses
To smell, to taste, to appear, to sound, etc.
- Possession
To have, to own, etc.
- Abstract
To need, to agree, to want, etc.

Remember:

Action Verbs don't always involve movement!

Examples:

What are you thinking about?

I am waiting for my friends.

She is listening to music.

Exercise

Are these verbs Action verbs or non-action verbs?

Write “A” or “NA” next to the following verbs:

1. to call: _____

2. to like: _____

3. to laugh: _____

4. to breathe: _____

5. to possess: _____

Answers:



1. A
2. NA
3. A
4. A
5. NA

2. Common Actions







Here are some common actions that we often perform:

IN SPORTS:

kick		pass	
punch		stretch	
play (tennis, ...)		swim	
train		ride (a bike, a horse, ...)	

<p>throw</p>		<p>climb</p>	
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IN HOBBIES:

<p>to sing</p>		<p>to paint</p>	
<p>to dance</p>		<p>to draw</p>	
<p>to read</p>		<p>to listen to music</p>	

SOME TRICKY ONES

Do you know the difference between these different verbs?

- **To speak**

The verb “to speak” is the most general one. It can refer only to the act of speech.

You can speak:

- a language
- the truth

- **To talk**

The verb “to talk” always involves a verbal exchange between several people.

You can talk:

- to someone
- about something

- **To tell**

The verb “to tell” will always involve other people than the speaker.

You can tell:

- something
- to someone

- **To say**

The verb “to say” refers to the mere verbal expression itself.

You can say:

- something

- **To hear**

The verb “to hear” is the most general one. It refers to the sense of hearing.

You can hear:

- a sound
- a voice
- etc.

- **To listen**

The verb “to listen” always requires the attention of the listener

You can listen:

- to someone
- to something

- **To see**

The verb “to see” is the most general one. It refers to the sense of sight.

You can see:

- something
- someone

- **To watch**

The verb “to watch” means there is something to watch, such as TV, a game, etc.

You can watch:

- something

- **To look**

The verb “to look” always requires the attention of the person who is looking.

You can look:

- at something
- at someone

- **To eat**

The verb “to eat” is the most general one. It is actually the combination of the following verbs (to chew and to swallow).

You can eat:

- something
- with someone
- at the table
- somewhere

- **To chew**

The verb “to chew” means there that you crush it with your teeth in order to eat it. However, dogs and babies.

You can chew:

- something

Exercise:

Choose the correct verb to fill in the blanks:

1. This bread is old, it is hard to _____.
2. Leave me alone, I am _____ my favorite movie!
3. My parents are _____ to my math teacher.
4. _____ to me carefully! This is important.

Answers:

1. chew
2. watching
3. talking
4. Listen

3. Phrases to talk about actions

Here is a text containing some phrases to remember when you talk about actions:

Mary is now a professional athlete, but it wasn't always the case. At first, she **made a lot of mistakes**. She kept on falling **all the time**. Her parents didn't think she **was able to** overcome her difficulties, but her friends **believed in** her. As a result, she started **taking care of** herself, and **got better at** running. She decided **to apply for** a competition with her best friend, Sonia. Their friends **wished them good luck** and the race started. By the end of the race, she was tired and hurt and wanted to **give up**. But **instead of** doing that, she decided to **carry on** and **deal with** the pain. **As a result**, she came in third and everyone else was amazed by her perseverance. Since then, she has **taken part in** many competitions and **is very happy with** her career. Remember that in order to feel good, you need to **focus on** your goals and **look after** yourself!

Exercise:

Let's see if you understood the text correctly!

1. Rephrase the advice at the end of the text "Remember that in order to feel good, you need to **focus on** your goals and **look after** yourself!"

2. What does it mean when we say that Mary **applied for** a competition?



Answers:

1. For instance: In order to feel good, you need to follow your objectives and to take good care of yourself.
2. For instance: It means that she signed up for the competition.

Learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzo9me2fdzg>

<https://free-english-study.com/speaking/talking-about-past-actions.html>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-are-action-words-definition-examples.html>