Parts of Speech – Verbs

Almost all words have a “part of speech”. Which part of speech a word has depends on how it is used in a sentence. Here is a list of the eight parts of speech:

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**Verb**: A verb is a word used to express an action or a state of being. A verb may be more than one word (when it includes helping verbs or auxiliaries). This is called a verb phrase.

**Example**: The woman *painted* a picture.

In this example, the word “*painted*” is a verb because it expresses action.

**Example**: The woman *is* a fine painter.

In this example, the word “*is*” is a verb because it expresses a state of being.

**Example**: They *should not be feeding* the lions.

In this example, the words “*should not be feeding*” are a verb phrase because they include helping verbs or auxiliaries.

**Directions**: Underline the verbs (or verb phrases) in the following sentences.

1) The dog runs and jumps.

2) We are studying biology.

3) The tennis player is going to hit the ball.

4) We like to sing, dance, and play.

5) I do not know if I should go to the party tonight.

6) The first car couldn’t have avoided hitting the second car.

7) Hmmm, right now I am thinking about thinking!

**Directions**: Now make your own sentences that use verbs.

1) __________________________________________

2) __________________________________________