

God's Gift of  
**Language**

**B**

Third Edition

Writing & Grammar  
Work-text



*A group of three young lions  
gathered by the water hole.*

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## God's Gift of Language B

Third Edition

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# *How forcible are right words!*

*Job 6:25*

## *Language is*

- ▶ seeing patterns and working analytically.
- ▶ learning how to use words effectively to express God's love to others.
- ▶ seeing the structure and orderliness of my language and learning to do things according to pattern.
- ▶ developing the ability to apply my knowledge of grammatical structure to my own thoughts and words.
- ▶ developing a body of thought in an intelligent and orderly manner.
- ▶ evaluating what I read, hear, and observe.
- ▶ communicating my beliefs clearly, forcefully, and persuasively.
- ▶ working up to the standards set by my instructor at the pace established by my instructor.
- ▶ learning rules and following them.
- ▶ learning that there is a correct way to do things.





## First Things First: The Verb

The words in our language have eight different names. We call them the **eight parts of speech**.

We are going to begin studying the parts of speech by learning about the most important word in a sentence—the verb. Every sentence has a verb. It is found in the predicate part of the sentence. Look for a word that shows action and you will find the verb.

The underlined words in this poem are verbs. Two verbs were not underlined. See if you can find them.

### Eight Parts of Speech

verbs	adverbs
nouns	prepositions
pronouns	conjunctions
adjectives	interjections

### dog

Under a maple tree  
 The dog lies down,  
Lolls his limp  
 Tongue, yawns,  
Rests his long chin  
 Carefully between  
 Front paws;  
Looks up, alert;  
Chops, with heavy  
 Jaws, at a slow fly.  
Blinks; rolls  
 On his side,  
Sighs, closes  
 His eyes: sleeps  
 All afternoon  
 In his loose skin.

—Valerie Worth



### Think

How many verbs are in this poem? \_\_\_\_\_

Who or what is doing all of these actions? \_\_\_\_\_

What two verbs did you have to underline? \_\_\_\_\_

## Action Verbs

A **verb** is a word that shows action or state of being, helps another verb, or links another word to the subject.

See if you can find the action verb in the sentence below.

The great <sup>S</sup> fish | <sup>P</sup> swallowed Jonah.

Is there a word in the predicate that shows an action, something that can be done? Yes, *swallowed* is underlined two times; it is the verb.

The <sup>S</sup> temperature | <sup>P</sup> dropped to 40°.

What word in the predicate shows something that can be done? Underline *dropped* two times; it is the verb.

<sup>S</sup> Lindsey | <sup>P</sup> collects postage stamps.

Underline the verb two times.

### Is It a Verb?

Try this test. Put *I*, *you*, or *it* in front of the word that you think is the verb. Do the two words make a sensible sentence?

	I sing.	I elephant.
<b>Yes!</b>	You sing.	You elephant. <b>No!</b>
	It sings.	It elephants.

*Hint:* If the word has an *-ing* or *-en* suffix, drop the suffix before trying the test.

eaten  
I (you or it) eat.

**Think A** Underline the verb two times in each sentence. Look for the word in the predicate which shows some action.

1. Paul Revere | saw the lantern in the North Church tower.
2. He | rode through the countryside.
3. His horse | ran like the wind.
4. The brave patriot | galloped into Lexington.
5. The sleeping minutemen | heard his cry.

**Think B** (1) Draw a line between the subject and predicate. (2) Underline the verb two times.

1. I like oranges.
2. The careful boy studied his math.
3. The meadowlark sang a joyful hymn.
4. The fierce wind blew violently.
5. The silent hunter stalked the doe.
6. The path led to a beautiful clearing.
7. The hot sun scorched the crops.
8. My youngest sister likes mystery stories.
9. The crew members searched diligently for land.
10. Grace helped her mother with the dishes.

**Think C** Underline the verb two times.

1. Stephanie learned many new words in school.
2. She especially enjoyed the animals' names.
3. The young goslings stayed close to their mother.
4. The gander honked loudly at the pond's edge.
5. A bevy of quail scurried across the road.
6. Sarah took a picture of the doe and fawn.
7. The horses frolicked in the field beside the stream.
8. The joey stays in its mother's pouch for six months.
9. My friends saw a sloth of bears at the zoo.
10. The cygnet hardly resembled the mother swan.



Another name for the verb is the simple predicate. Can you see why?