14.2 LINKING VERBS

14.2.1 A linking verb is a verb that connects a subject with a word that describes or identifies it.

EXAMPLES The **winners** **were** **Tony** and **John**. Predicate Nouns
We **felt** extremely **tired** after all our running. Predicate Adjective

In English, the most common linking verb is ***be***. This verb has many forms.

am	can be	has been
are	could be	have been
is	may be	had been
was	might be	could have been
were	must be	may have be
am being	shall be	might have been
are being	should be	must have been
is being	will be	shall have been
was being	would be	should have be
were being		will have been
would have been		

Several other verbs also function as linking verbs. They connect the parts of a sentence in the same way as the forms of be. In the sentence below, **calm** describes **chief**.

EXAMPLE The **chief** **remained** **calm** during the battle. **Calm is a predicate adjective describing the subject, chief.**

Action Verb or Linking Verb

Some verbs can be used either as linking verbs or action verbs.

Linking The **water** **looked** **polluted**. (**Look** links **water** and **polluted**.)
Action The inspector **looked** at the water. (The inspector performed the action.)

To test whether a verb is linking or an action verb, replace the verb with is, am, or are. If the sentence still makes sense, then the verb is a linking verb.

EXAMPLE The water **looked** polluted. – The water **is** polluted. – Linking Verb
The inspector **looked** at the water – The inspector **is** the water. **Not a Linking Verb**