

Read and Discover

The sun is an ordinary star. Ninety percent of the stars we can see from Earth are main-sequence stars like our sun.

Which boldfaced verb connects a noun with a phrase that describes it?
_____ Which boldfaced verb shows action? _____

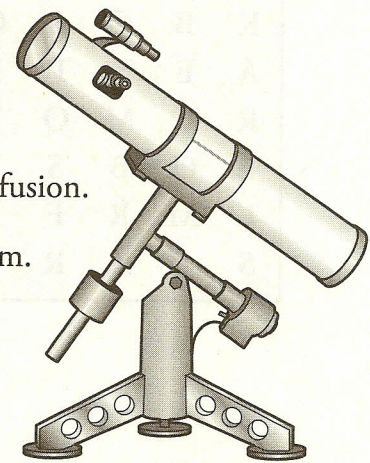
An **action verb** shows action. A **linking verb** does not show action. Instead, a linking verb connects the subject of a sentence to one or more words that describe or rename the subject. Linking verbs are usually forms of *be*; some of these are *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, and *will be*. *Become*, *seem*, *appear*, and *look* can also be used as linking verbs.

See Handbook Section 17

Part 1

Circle each action verb. Underline each linking verb. Be sure to include helping verbs such as *can*, *would*, *may*, and *have*.

1. Scientists observe stars as tiny as 12 miles in diameter and as big as a billion miles in diameter.
2. The sun is about 4.6 billion years old.
3. The average age of a star is between one million and ten billion years.
4. Stars can last as long as 15 billion years.
5. A star begins its life as a cloud of hydrogen gas and dust.
6. Hydrogen, the lightest chemical element, is highly flammable.
7. Over millions of years, the cloud's gravity pulls it into a ball.
8. The ball's center becomes extremely hot.
9. Temperatures of two million degrees Fahrenheit result in nuclear fusion.
10. Fusion slowly changes the hydrogen in the ball's center into helium.
11. Helium is a very light, unburnable gas.
12. Nuclear fusion releases energy.
13. The ball's outer layer becomes heated.
14. Then the newborn star shines.



Amateur astronomers watch the stars through telescopes.