

Read and Discover

The Sonoran Desert is one of the largest deserts in North America. Its weather patterns give this vast area a fifth season.

In the first sentence, circle the verb that links the subject of the sentence to words in the predicate that rename and describe it. In the second sentence, underline the verb that shows action.

An **action verb** shows action. It usually tells what the subject of a clause is doing, will do, or did. An action verb may include one or more helping verbs in addition to the main verb. A **linking verb** does not show action. It connects the subject of a sentence to a word or words that describe or rename the subject. Linking verbs are usually forms of *be*. Some common linking verbs are *am, is, are, was, were, been, and will be*. The verbs *become, seem, appear, and look* can also be used as linking verbs. A linking verb may also include one or more helping verbs in addition to the main verb.

See Handbook Sections 18a, 18c

Part 1

Underline each action verb. Circle each linking verb. Be sure to include any helping verbs you find.

1. The Sonoran Desert is one of the hottest and driest areas in North America.
2. Seasons in the Sonoran Desert are different from the seasons in temperate climates.
3. The amount of rainfall determines the timing and nature of each season there.
4. Because the rainfall is so unpredictable, not everyone agrees on the number of seasons in the Sonoran Desert.
5. The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum officially recognizes five seasons.
6. The annual cycle begins with the summer rainy season, from July through early September.
7. This period of heavy rainfall relieves the extreme heat of the previous two months.
8. It also provides much-needed water for desert plants and animals.
9. After the rainy season, temperatures become cooler and rainfall diminishes.
10. The fall season has begun; it typically lasts through November.
11. The winter months of December, January, and February are mostly sunny and mild, although they occasionally bring wind, rain, and cold temperatures.
12. Spring (mid-February through April) features mild temperatures and little rain.
13. This is the main flowering season for small plants, shrubs, and trees.
14. In a normal year, no rain falls during the foreshummer drought months of May and June, and temperatures are high.
15. Plants and animals remain in survival mode during the drought months.
16. The return of the summer rains starts the cycle over; flora and fauna thrive in their desert home.