

Lesson #13: BASIC SENTENCE PATTERNS, USING THE NON-ACTIVE VERB

Purpose:

Students will begin to use non-active verbs (forms of *to be*, forms of state of being or linking verbs) in basic sentence patterns. Students will define action words and these non-active forms as verbs.

The concept that writing involves thinking/reasoning/analyzing is reinforced.

The definition of a sentence will be modified based of the new awareness of verb functions.

Introduction to Students:

We know that there is another word which we haven't been using for all of these action words. What is that word? (Solicit the response.) Verb. (Write this and the definitions below on the board/overhead.) We haven't been using the term verb because we have been focusing on action words, and a verb may do one of three things.

1. A verb tells the *action* of a noun. (These are the action verbs that we have been using.)
2. Also, some words may be paired with action verbs (for example, *is* going, *will* go, *can* go, *could* go) and become part of a verb phrase. These words are referred to, often, as *helping verbs*.
3. A verb may connect a noun with a description of what it is like, its quality of state. We call these *state of being* or *linking verbs*.

Ex. John is tired.

© Mary seems pale.

Fred looks weaker every day.

So all three of the following sentences in Pattern 1 would be correct:

1. Norman *runs* fast. (*runs* is an action verb)
2. Norman *is running* fast. (*is running* is a verb phrase; *is* a helping verb)
4. Norman *is* fast. (*is* links the noun, Norman, with his quality, fast)