

LINKING VERBS

Động từ nối

Linking verbs are verbs that don't show an action but rather *describe the subject*. While verbs like walk or jump represent an action, linking verbs like be or seem add more details to the subject, such as “he seems nice” or “she is an architect.”

USAGE:

- Linking verbs do not express action, instead they connect the subject of the verb with an adjective or a noun that describes or identifies the subject.
- We use an **adjective**/ a **noun** after a linking verb.

	Linking verbs	Additional information about the subject
Subject	be, become, seem, appear, grow, get, remain, stay, look, sound, smell, taste, feel	adjective / noun

Example:

- I **am** thirteen years old.
- She **seems** sad today.
- This place **looks** like a mess!

***NOTE:**

1. Unlike other verbs, linking verbs do not describe the action but instead **describe the subject**. Thus, linking verbs are modified by **adjectives/noun**, not adverbs.

Example: The runner is **quickly**. => *Incorrect*

The runner is **quick**. => *Correct*

However, adverbs are okay if they describe the linking verb and not the subject.

Example: He **gradually** became kinder and more compassionate.

She **hardly** seems shy.

2. We can not use present continuous tense for Linking verbs.

Example: It **sounds** tedious. => *Correct*

It **is sounding** tedious => *Incorrect*

3. *feel, look, smell* and *taste* can also be transitive since it has a direct object. In that case, it becomes an actual action verb rather than a linking verb and is therefore modified by an adverb, not an adjective. In this case, we can use present continuous tense for them

Example: He **is tasting** the soup carefully.

Cleft Sentences

Câu chẻ

We sometimes use constructions called cleft sentences when we want to *focus on a particular part of the sentence*. These are used both in written and spoken English.

What a cleft sentence does is to cleave (split or divide into two) a sentence into two parts to emphasize one of the parts (underlined). The part of the sentence we don't want to emphasize is put into a type of relative clause (in dark blue).

Example: *Warsaw Will writes this blog.* (Normal sentence)

It's *Warsaw Will* **who writes this blog.** (Cleft sentence)

1. *It - clefts:*

Subject focus:

+ Structure: It + be (is/was) + S + that/who + V

+ Usage: Emphasize the subject that does the action

Example: It was Thao who/that visited Tom yesterday

S

Object focus:

+ Structure: It + be (is/was) + O + that/whom + S + V

+ Usage: Emphasize on the object of the action

Example: It was Tom whom/that Thao visited yesterday.

O

Adverbial focus:

+ Structure: It + be (is/was) + Adverbial phrase + that + S + V + O

+ Usage: Emphasize the Adverbial phrase in the sentence

Example: It was yesterday that Thao visited Tom.

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