

# Action Verb Notes

***Explode! Scream! Sneeze! Type! Kick!*** What are these words doing? They are expressing action, something that a person, animal, force of nature, or thing can *do*. As a result, we call these words *action verbs*. Look at the examples below:

In the library, Michele giggles inappropriately.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is something that Michele can *do*.

Because of the spicy Jamaican pepper, David reached for his glass of iced tea.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is something that David can *do*—happily, if his mouth is on fire.

The squirrel stuffed its cheeks with acorns.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is something that a squirrel can *do*.

The hurricane *stirred* the ocean into a frenzy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is something that a hurricane can *do*.

The alarm clock *buzzed* like an angry bumblebee.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is something that the alarm clock can *do*.

The coffee maker *gurgled* on the kitchen counter.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is something that the coffee maker can *do*.

If you are unsure whether a sentence contains an action verb or not, look at every word in the sentence and ask yourself, "Can a person or thing *do* this?"

Read the sentence below:

During biology class, Omesh napped at his desk.

Can you *during*? Is *during* something *you* can *do*? Can you *biology*? Is there someone *biologying* outside the building right now? Can you *class*? Do your obnoxious neighbors keep you up until 2 a.m. because they are *classing*? Can you *Omesh*? What does a person do when he's *Omeshing*? Can you *nap*? Bingo! Sure you can! You'd probably prefer napping to listening to a biology lecture yourself. Can you *at*? Of course not! Can you *his*? Show me *hising*. Can you *desk*? Demonstrate *desking* for me!

In the sentence above, there is only one action verb: *napped*.