# 4.1 ACTION VERBS AND BEING VERBS

**HIGHLIGHT OR UNDERLINE**
**the important information in the text.**

A **verb** is a word used to express action or being.

**The ice cream melts in the sun.** (action verb)

**The ice cream is delicious.** (being verb)

In each sentence the subject is *ice cream.* In the first sentence, *melts* expresses action. In the second sentence, *is* expresses being. Both words are verbs.

An **action verb** expresses action. The verb in the sentence below is *ate*. It expresses the act of eating.

**Yesterday I ate blueberry ice cream for the first time.**

Examples of action verbs include *dance, run, dream, write, sing, study, ring, chime, clang, toll,* and *jingle.*

A **being verb** expresses a state of being. The verb in the sentence below is *are*. It is a form of the verb *be*, which expresses being.

**There are many fascinating stories about ice cream.**

The verb *be* and its various forms are the most common being verbs, including *am, is, are, was, were, been,* and *being.*

**THINK IT THROUGH**

**How will you remember what you just learned? Write or draw your ideas.**

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## EXERCISE 1 Underline the action verb or being verb in each sentence.

1. In many parts of the ancient world, people consumed some form of chilled or iced refreshment.
2. By the 1700s, many people made ice cream.
3. The first ice-cream parlor in the United States opened in the 1770s.
4. The major ingredient of ice cream is cream.
5. Frozen yogurt was first a dessert in the United States in the 1970s.

## EXERCISE 2 Underline the verb in each sentence. Then put an X in the box to tell whether it is an action verb or a being verb.

| | ACTION | BEING |
|---|---|---|
| 1. In the late 1800s, people enjoyed ice-cream sodas. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. Their ingredients were ice cream, syrup, and soda water. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. A law prohibited the sale of soda water on Sunday. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4. So ice-cream parlors eliminated the soda water. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5. The result was the ice-cream sundae. | ☐ | ☐ |

## EXERCISE 3 On each line, write an action verb or a being verb to complete each sentence.

1. A popular fruit for dessert _____ strawberries.
2. Many people also _____ oranges.
3. Some people _____ honey on berries.
4. Sliced apples _____ a tasty addition to a fruit plate.
5. People often _____ watermelon in the summer.



## APPLY IT NOW

**Imagine you and a family member are preparing a dinner for your friends. Use action verbs and being verbs to write about it.**

SCAN FOR MORE PRACTICE.

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