

SCOTT FORESMAN WEEKLY GRAMMAR SKILLS

UNIT 3

Week 1-Action and Linking Verbs

A **verb** is a word that tells what someone or something is or does. **Action verbs** are words that show action. **Linking verbs**, such as *am, is, are, was, and were*, do not show action.

They link a subject to a word or words in the predicate.

Action Verb: We plant flowers in the garden.

Linking Verb: The flowers are tulips.

Week 2-Main and Helping Verbs

A **verb phrase** is a verb that has more than one word. The **main verb** shows action. A **helping verb** shows the time of the action. In the following sentence, *planting* is the main verb, and *are* is the helping verb. The girls are planting corn with the women.

The helping verbs *am, is, and are* show present time. *Was* and *were* show past time. *Will* shows future time. The helping verbs *has, have, and had* show that an action happened in the past.

Week 3-Subject-Verb Agreement

The subject and the verb in a sentence must work together, or **agree**.

Singular Subject: The bird **sings** a cheery song. She **listens** to the music.

Plural Subject: The ducks **eat** the bread crumbs. We watch them.

A form of *be* in a sentence also must agree with the subject.

Singular Subject: A grasshopper **is** hiding on the lawn. The ant **was** busy.

Plural Subject: Crickets **are** singing in the trees. The insects **were** noisy.

Week 4-Past, Present, Future Tense

Verbs can show when an action happens. This is called **tense**. Many present tense verbs end in *-s*. Form the past tense of many verbs by adding *-ed*. Add the helping verb *will* to a verb to make it a future tense verb.

Present Tense: A whale stays near the beach. **Past Tense:** The whale jumped out of the water **Future Tense:** The other whales will jump out soon.

Week 5-Irregular Verbs

Usually you add *-ed* to a verb to show past tense. **Irregular verbs** do not follow this rule. Instead of having *-ed* forms to show past tense, irregular verbs change to other words.

Present Tense: We do a report on volcanoes **Past Tense:** . We did a report on volcanoes.

Past with *has, have, or had*: We have done reports..

UNIT 4

Week 1-Singular and Plural Pronouns

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns. *I, me, he, she, him, her, and it* are singular pronouns. **Singular Pronoun:** The **man** cannot fly. **He** cannot fly. *We, us, they, and them* are plural pronouns. **Plural Pronoun:** **Penguins** cannot fly. **They** cannot fly.

Week 2-Prepositions

A **preposition** is the first word in a group of words called a prepositional phrase. A **prepositional phrase** ends with a noun or pronoun called the **object of the preposition**. A prepositional phrase tells more about other words in a sentence. **Preposition:** The eagle flew **in** a circle. **Prepositional Phrase:** The eagle flew **in a circle**.

Object of Preposition: The eagle flew in a **circle**.

Week 3-Possessive Pronouns

Some pronouns show who or what owns, or possesses, something. This kind of pronoun is a **possessive pronoun**. **Possessive Pronouns:** *My, mine, your, yours, her, hers, our, ours, his, their, theirs, and its* are possessive pronouns. This is **my** gold rock, and that is **hers**.



Week 4-Contractions

A **contraction** is a word made by putting two words together. When words are joined in a contraction, an apostrophe shows where a letter or letters have been left out. **Contractions:** **They're** swimming in the lake, but I **can't** see them

