Strategy #5 – Grammar – Recognizing Verbs

The first step to recognizing any part of speech is to define it. You probably learned at a very young age that a verb is an **action word.**

**Examples: run, dance, sing, follow, etc.**

These are all **action** verbs. They are things you can **do.**

You can recognize **action** verbs in sentences by imagining yourself, someone or something else, or the subject of your sentence, if you’ve already identified it, actually **doing** the action.

**Example:** Mrs. Lewis **walks.**

The **action** verb is **walks** because it is what the subject, Mrs. Lewis, is **doing.**

Obviously, it was not too difficult to find the action verb in this short sentence, so how do you find it in a longer sentence?

**Example**: Mrs. Lewis **walks** her dog in the park.

There are more details in this sentence, but if you ask yourself the same question as before, **what is Mrs. Lewis,** the subject of the sentence, **doing,** the answer is still **walks.**

When recognizing **action** verbs,remember to look for their **different forms,** as well as their **helpers!** The **complete action verb** includes both the **main action** and its **helpers –** also known as **auxiliary verbs.**

**Examples:** Mrs. Lewis **walked** her dog in the park.

Mrs. Lewis **is walking** her dog in the park.

Mrs. Lewis **has been walking** her dog in the park.