

Grammar terms beginning with letter L

Labile verb

A verb which can be either transitive or intransitive. English has many labile verbs. Examples are: sink, smoke, dress, wash, swim, jump etc.

Susie smokes expensive cigarettes. (Transitive)

Susie smokes. (Intransitive)

The explosion sank the ship. (Transitive)

The ship sank. (Intransitive)

She washed her dress. (Transitive)

This dress washes easily. (Intransitive)

Lexical item

The form of a word which is listed in a dictionary. For example, book is a lexical item, while books isn't. In the same way, take is a lexical item, but its grammatical forms takes, taking, taken and took aren't lexical items.

Lexical verb

Any verb which is not an auxiliary verb. Examples are: *write, sing, dance, work, break, explain, smile, die* etc.

Lexicon

The set of words in a language. To refer to the words known by a person, we use the word vocabulary.

Light verb

A verb which has no meaning of its own. A light verb helps to convert another word into a verbal form. The English verbs which can be used as light verbs include do, make, have, give and take.

Make a mistake

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Do a dance

Have a shower

Give a cry

Take a sip

Linking verb

A special verb which serves to connect two parts of a sentence. A linking verb expresses either that the two parts denote the same thing or that the first part has the property denoted by the second. An example of a linking verb is be.

The sentence *James is my brother* asserts that James and my brother are the same person.