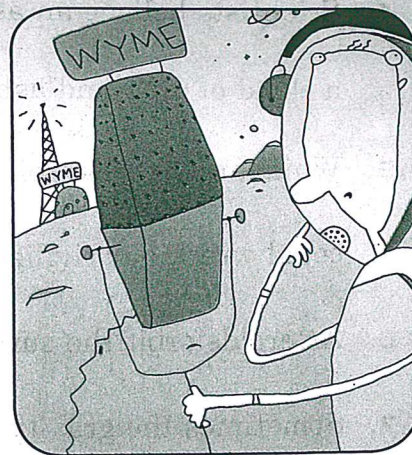


# Action, Linking, and Helping Verbs

I'd saved up for months for my trip to the Super Bowl. The game electrified the crowd. My favorite team won in overtime. But when a reporter asked me what I thought of the game, I could think of only one word: "Awesome!" A few vivid action verbs that afternoon would have saved my big TV moment. Action verbs can also save your writing, turning it from dull to exciting. (See page 718 in *Write Source* for more information.)



## Examples

*Linking Verbs:*

You could be a radio programmer and broadcaster.

*Action Verbs:*

You could create and broadcast your own radio program.

(In this sentence, "could" is a helping verb.)

## Directions

*CIRCLE THE SUBJECT. Then...*  
Underline the verbs twice in each of the following sentences. (Don't forget to underline helping verbs as well.) Label each action verb with an "A" and each linking verb with an "L." The first sentence has been done for you.

1. Some recent movies and television shows dramatize the danger of asteroids to life on Earth.
2. Some scientists feel that at least one huge asteroid smashed into Earth during the time that dinosaurs roamed the planet.
3. Under the ocean near Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula lies an impact crater nearly 180 kilometers wide.

4. Scientists believe an asteroid crashed there 65 million years ago and raised a cloud of dust and ash that cooled Earth and killed the dinosaurs.
5. While another asteroid strike like that might not destroy the human race, it could wreck our civilization.
6. Asteroids orbit the sun in a "belt" between Mars and Jupiter.
7. Sometimes the gravity of those planets nudges an asteroid out of the belt, and it crosses Earth's orbit.
8. Normally Earth's gravity then swings the asteroid farther toward the sun, where it disintegrates.
9. Earth has several large craters, however, where asteroids have struck in the past.
10. Because the moon has no atmosphere, impact craters actually cover its surface.
11. Most asteroid strikes happened long, long ago, during the fury of the solar system's formation.
12. In fact, the chance that a major asteroid will strike Earth is very, very small.
13. Still, a number of government agencies watch the skies for "killer" asteroids.
14. Even though the chance of a deadly strike is slim, "Better safe than sorry."

**Next Step** Write a paragraph describing an event you witnessed: a concert, a parade, a game. Use action verbs to make your paragraphs come to life for the reader.