



### TITLE

How do languages express states, activities ?

### UMBRELLA KEY IDEA

Languages express actions and states through action words/signs

### TEXT KEY IDEA

Action words/signs are verbs

### CONSPECTUS

1. Umbrella key idea: Languages express actions and states through action words/signs.
2. Introduction: to express actions and states, Portuguese languages (vocal and sign) use a kind of action words named verbs.
3. Text key idea: Action words/signs are verbs.
4. Examples: examples from Portuguese vocal and sign language.
5. Conclusion: to express actions we need action verbs

### REFERENCES

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Vendler, Z. (1957). Verbs and Times. *The Philosophical Review*, 66(2), pp. 143-160. Available from: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2182371?seq=1> - page\_scan\_tab\_contents

### OBJECTIVES

1. You can **identify** how vocal languages expresses actions
2. You can **identify** how vocal languages expresses states
3. You can **recognize** the importance of verbs

### FULL TEXT

1. Umbrella key idea



In their everyday life, people do different things: they see an object, an animal or something else and they name it; people attribute qualities to these things and describe how something is done.

But people also do something else: people walk, run, eat, think and do other actions. Walking, running or eating are **physical actions** while thinking is a **mental action**.

To describe those actions and others, we use a type of word named **verb (action verbs)**.

Besides that, people also watch a movie or a landscape, know things, hate or like some activities.

People can also be sad or cheerful. Now it is not about actions but **states**. To describe those states we use a type of word called **state verbs**.

Languages express actions and states through action words/signs.

## 2. Introduction

To express actions and states, Portuguese languages (vocal and sign) use a kind of action words named verbs.

## 3. Text key idea

In Portuguese language, to express actions or states we need verbs. Verbs are «action words».

Words such as “run”, “paint” or “break” show there is an action; that is why we call these words action verbs.

An action verb is a verb that expresses something done by a subject. We call subject to a person, an animal or a thing who does the action: Mary plays football, my dog runs with me or the ball broke the glass.

Without a verb we don't have a sentence but only disconnected words.

The action can be a physical action, like to run, or a mental action, like to think.

In Portuguese sign language, an action can be expressed by a single sign or by means of a repeated sign. Moreover, Portuguese sign language expresses action by means of a sign which incorporates the verb and the object: a single sign includes action, subject and object.



Verbs can also express a state of being, a situation defining the subject: state verbs express states or conditions which are relatively static. State verbs include verbs of perception (for example: to see), emotion (for example: to love) and state of being (for example: to be).

In Portuguese sign language we don't express the state of being by means of a verb.

#### 4. Examples of Portuguese vocal and sign language

1) We can find action verbs in the following sentences:

a) Action verbs that express physical actions:

- «I open the window». In this sentence, the word 'open' is a verb, the verb to open. The word 'open' expresses a physical action: to open.

In Portuguese sign language, the sign for 'open the window' is different from the sign for 'open a drawer or a door, or a book. The verb 'to open' without the object doesn't exist.

- «I play chess with my friend». In this sentence the word 'play' is a verb, the verb to play. The word 'play' expresses a physical action: to play.

b) Action verbs that express mental actions:

- «I think this weather is unusual for this time of the year». In this sentence the word 'think' is a verb, the verb to think. The word 'think' expresses a physical action: to think.

- «He wishes me good luck». In this sentence the word 'wish' is a verb, the verb to wish. The word 'wish' expresses a physical action: to wish.

2) We can find state verbs in the following sentences:

- «I see a frog». In this sentence, the word 'see' is a verb, the verb to see. The word 'see' expresses the perception state of seeing a frog.

- «He loves swimming». In this sentence, the word 'loves' is a verb, the verb to love. The word 'loves' expresses an emotion state.

- «She is happy». In this sentence, the word 'is' is a verb, the verb to be. The word 'is' expresses the state of being happy. In sign language the state of being is not expressed by a verb: we say «I happy».



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Deaf Language Awareness  
2018-1-PL01-KA204-051109



## 5. Conclusion

We need verbs to express actions and states.

Verbs are necessary components of all sentences; we can say they are essential in a sentence expressing actions.