Lesson 7: Act it Out

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Amy.

Last week, I went to the zoo. There were all different kinds of animals there from all around the world. When I came home, I posted the photos I took at the zoo online to show my friends. I wanted to help my friends understand what each picture was about. So under each picture, I wrote one word for the animal, person, place, or thing in the photo.

Words for animals, people, places, and things are called *nouns*.

I like to remember what a noun is by doing this: A noun is an animal, a person, a place, or a thing.

Try that with me. A noun is an animal, a person, a place, or a thing. One more time. A noun is an animal, a person, a place, or a thing.

While I was at the zoo, I also took some videos of the animals I saw. Later, I posted those videos to share with my friends.

I labeled each video with a noun, too. Like under this one, I wrote "elephant," but my friend's reaction surprised me. She wrote, "What is the elephant doing?"

I realized it wasn't enough to just say what kind of animal was in the video. My friends also wanted to know what each animal was doing. Words that say what something does are called verbs. A verb is an action word.

I like to remember it by doing this: A verb is an action word. Give that a try. A verb is an action word. One more time. A verb is an action word.

I already labeled each of the videos I took at the zoo with a noun—the name of the animal. Now I'm going to add a verb that says what each animal is doing.

For this video, I wrote "swims" because that's the action that the elephant is doing.

I have more videos of zoo animals that need verbs, too. Can you help me?

Let's try acting out what each animal is doing. That will help us figure out what verb to write.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

In a minute, you'll stand up. Make sure there's space around you so you can move your arms without touching anything or anyone. When you're ready, click the arrow to go to the next step.

STEP 2

First, let's practice. This is a video I took at the zoo. I've set a timer for fifteen seconds. When the timer starts, do what the elephant is doing.

As you move, make sure you stay in your spot on the floor so everyone has space to move. When the timer stops, freeze. Okay. Ready? Go!

Do what the elephant does. Move like the elephant moves.

Okay. Time's up. Everybody freeze.

Look around yourself to check. Did you stay in your spot on the floor? Does everyone around you still have space to move? If not, move a little so everyone has space. When everyone is ready, go to the next step.

STEP 3

Great job! Let's do that again. When the timer starts, do what the elephant is doing. Ready? Start.

Okay. Time's up. Everybody freeze.

When everyone is frozen, go to the next step.

STEP 4

Let's pick some verbs to describe the elephant's actions.

Writers: Raise your hand if you have an idea for a verb, or an action word, that says what this elephant is doing.

Teacher: Call on a few writers to share their ideas. As the writer shares their verb out loud, write the word down so everyone can see it. Don't worry about what tense of the verb to use, just write down whatever the writer says.

STEP 5

Okay. Ready to act out another animal? This is the video I took of a bear. When the timer starts, do what the animal does. Ready? Start.

Okay. Time's up. Everybody freeze.

When everyone is frozen, go to the next step.

STEP 6

Writers: Raise your hand if you have an idea for a verb—an action word—to say what this bear is doing.

Teacher: Call on a few writers. Write each word down.

STEP 7

Get ready to act out another video. This is a video I took of a bat. When the timer starts, do what the bat does. Ready? Start.

Okay. Time's up. Everybody freeze.

When everyone is frozen, go to the next step.

STEP 8

Writers: Raise your hand if you have an idea for a verb—an action word—we could use to say what this bat is doing.

Teacher: Call on a few writers. Write each word down.

STEP 9

If you're not sitting already, teacher, tell everyone where to sit down.

WRAP UP

Okay, let's look at these videos again. I saw that the elephant in this video was putting food in her mouth, so I wrote "elephant eats" under this video.

When I acted out the bear, I noticed that I was moving its head back and forth. It was shaking. So I wrote "bear shakes" under this video.

And for this one, I saw the bat flying, so I wrote "bat flies" under this video. You might have picked different verbs than I did, and that's great. Getting to choose just the word you want is the power of being a writer. Sometimes, different animals, people, places, or things do the same action.

In this video, I said the "bear shakes," but other things can shake, too. An elephant can shake. A person can shake. This toy robot can shake. All of these nouns are doing the same action, so I could label all of them with the same verb, "shakes." The same verb can go with many different nouns.

Thanks to your help, now all my videos are labeled with a noun—a word for an animal, person, place, or thing—and a verb, an action word.

If you visit the zoo one day or find more animal videos online, you might notice animals doing different actions. Now you'll know how to pick just the right verb for each action.

Thanks for your help. See you next time, writers.