



Now, Poodle knew verbs
come in time forms,
called *tenses*, and he
started to think Sidney
was full of defenses,
but then Sidney
halted her rush and said with some glee,
“Do this: add the verb
to those others,” said she.

Using her snail hand
(Snails have hands?)
to write in the pale sand,
this is what she wrote on the strand:

He	gave	six	beagles	blue	noodles.
pron.	AV	adj.	n.	adj.	n.

“*Gave*—that’s the past,” Sidney said.

“An **action verb (AV)** spreads
its force to blue noodles ahead.”

“*He—gave—noodles*,” Poodle thought
in suspense. It made sense.



Sidney showed Poodle more sentences:

Beagles eat red beets.
n. AV adj. n.

Chickens showed him the hot soup.
n. AV pron. adj. adj. n.

“Snails win every race,” she said.
n. AV adj. n. pron. v.

“Wait,” Poodle said. “You mean that **every sentence has a verb?**”

“Yes,” Sidney cried, and she zoomed down the chapter, leaping pages and bouncing off margins—she couldn’t be captured—slipping between paragraphs, and with a pair of laughs, she landed back at Poodle’s feet.

“Every sentence,” Sidney said. “That’s it. Every sentence has a verb.”

