The verbs am, is, was, and were do not show action. They show what someone or something is or was. These verbs are forms of the verb to be.

The verbs am, is, and are tell about now.

I am a doctor.
She is a teacher.
Joe and Carl are students.

The verbs was and were tell about the past.

Susan was a doctor.
Kate, John, and Shelly were teachers.

Use am, is, and was to tell about one person, place, or thing. Use are and were to tell about more than one person, place, or thing.