

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE



Present Tense and Subject–Verb Agreement

DEFINITION OF SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

A subject and a present tense verb are said to *agree* when they are consistent in number and person. *Present tense* means something is happening now—in the present. *Number* indicates singular (one) or plural (more than one). A singular subject always takes a singular verb; a plural subject always takes a plural verb.

VERBS IN THE PRESENT TENSE

	Singular		Plural
first person:	I talk	first person:	we talk
second person:	you talk	second person:	you talk
third person:	he talks she talks it talks	third person:	they talk

You add an *-s* or *-es* to the verb in the present tense only when the subject is third person singular (*he, she, it*):

he sits
she misses
it happens



EXERCISE 1 ▶ In the blanks, write the correct form of the verbs below.

Example: to watch

I watch
he watches
we watch

1. to run

I _____
you _____
he _____

2. to go

she _____
it _____
we _____

3. to think
I _____
he _____
she _____
4. to plan
you _____
we _____
he _____
5. to tell
she _____
I _____
we _____
6. to send
you _____
we _____
I _____
7. to eat
it _____
she _____
he _____
8. to sleep
we _____
you _____
he _____



EXERCISE 2 ► Underline the subject or subjects in both the dependent and independent clauses below. Also, circle the correct verb form in parentheses.

Example: She (believes, believe) in him.

1. They (lives, live) in the log cabin off the highway.
2. She (acts, act) like a child.
3. I (misses, miss) him more than ever.
4. Whenever night (falls, fall), I (comes, come) alive.
5. You (goes, go) to the corner; then you (turns, turn) right.
6. If he (wants, want) a raise, he (asks, ask) for it.
7. He (pitches, pitch), (catches, catch) and (runs, run) with great energy.
8. We (cleans, clean) the grill every evening before we (closes, close).
9. After lunch I (seems, seem) to get quite sleepy.
10. She (carries, carry) the boxes to her car.
11. He (says, say) that she (moves, move) gracefully.
12. It (breaks, break) if you (drops, drop) it.

13. They (sings, sing) in the church choir and (travels, travel) around the country to entertain others.
14. You (takes, take) the subway every day.
15. She (writes, write) in her journal every morning.
16. I (dreams, dream) that I (skis, ski) in the Olympics.

PRESENT TENSE: *TO BE, TO DO, TO HAVE*

The forms of the verbs *to be*, *to do*, and *to have* can sometimes be confusing. It will help you to memorize their present tense forms.

TO BE IN THE PRESENT TENSE

Singular		Plural	
first person:	I am	first person:	we are
second person:	you are	second person:	you are
third person:	he is she is it is	third person:	they are

TO DO IN THE PRESENT TENSE

Singular		Plural	
first person:	I do	first person:	we do
second person:	you do	second person:	you do
third person:	he does she does it does	third person:	they do

Do and *does* are frequently used with *not*:

She does not like coffee.

Sometimes a contraction is used:

She *doesn't* like coffee.

do + not = don't

does + not = doesn't

Keep in mind that contractions are considered somewhat informal. If you are writing something formal, you should avoid using them.

TO HAVE IN THE PRESENT TENSE

Singular		Plural	
first person:	I have	first person:	we have
second person:	you have	second person:	you have
third person:	he has she has it has	third person:	they have



EXERCISE 1 ► In the blanks, write the present tense form of *to be*.

Example: We are going to the beach this Sunday.

1. They _____ my mother's sisters.
2. I _____ trying to finish this lesson on time.
3. You _____ always so tired on Tuesday morning.
4. It _____ raining again.
5. We _____ sure that he _____ innocent.
6. She _____ the woman on the television news show.
7. You _____ a clever person, but you _____ too devious.
8. I _____ happy with my grades.



EXERCISE 2 ► In the blanks, write the present tense form of *to do*.

Example: He does everything on the instruction list.

1. I _____ eighty push-ups every morning.
2. Although you _____ study diligently, you _____ poorly on tests because of anxiety.
3. She _____ more work than is required.
4. We _____ prepare three nutritious meals a day.
5. It _____ not seem like a good idea.
6. _____ they seem interested in the topic?
7. We _____ go to every antique auction on weekends.
8. He _____ have a wry sense of humor.



EXERCISE 3 ► In the blanks, write the present tense form of *to do*, then the present tense form of *to do* with *not*, then the contraction.

	Subject	Verb	Verb + NOT	Contraction
Example:	I	<u>do</u>	<u>do not</u>	<u>don't</u>
	1. he	_____	_____	_____
	2. we	_____	_____	_____
	3. it	_____	_____	_____
	4. they	_____	_____	_____
	5. you	_____	_____	_____



EXERCISE 4 ► Fill in the blanks with *doesn't* or *don't*.

Example: He doesn't like to be late for appointments.

1. You _____ have to work overtime tonight.
2. She _____ want to take more than four classes.
3. Although he _____ like to exercise, he _____ want to be out of shape.
4. They _____ predict a storm today.
5. _____ you want to go to the dance?
6. We _____ have to hurry to work.
7. If I _____ save money, I _____ go to school.
8. It _____ pay to speculate about the future.



EXERCISE 5 ► In the blanks, write the present tense form of *to have*.

Example: We have three small daughters.

1. Because you _____ a cold, you _____ no business being at work.
2. I _____ a chance to explain.
3. _____ you any suggestions?
4. He _____ fleas.
5. It _____ to be a sunny day for the company picnic.
6. They _____ several ways to get financial aid.
7. He _____ the magazines, and I _____ copies of the articles needed for the research paper.
8. We _____ a long drive ahead of us.

AGREEMENT: SEPARATION OF SUBJECT AND VERB

The subject and verb must agree even when they are separated by other words. Look at the following example:

A list of names is on your desk

subject = list

verb = is

Do not make an agreement error by connecting the verb to the nearest noun: *names* is not the subject of the sentence. It might help you to mark out the prepositional phrase that comes between the subject and verb:

A list ~~of names~~ is on your desk.

To locate the subject of any sentence, ask yourself what or who the sentence is talking about. In the preceding example, what is on the desk? The answer is that a list is on the desk.

It might help to replace the noun subject in a sentence with a pronoun to determine if it is singular or plural:

list = it (singular)

What is on the desk? *It* is on the desk. Since *it* is singular, you must use a singular verb, *is*. Here is another example of the pronoun substitution method:

The boys on our team are in red uniforms.

They are in red uniforms.

boys = they (plural)

Since *they* is plural, you must use a plural verb, *are*.

Occasionally a prepositional phrase that comes between the subject and verb is set off with commas. The commas signal that the phrase is not the subject. Look at the following examples:

The instructor, as well as the students, is late.

subject = instructor

verb = is

The children, together with their grandparents, are at the zoo.

subject = children

verb = are



EXERCISE 1 ▶ In the sentences below, cross out the prepositional phrases separating the subject and verb. Circle the correct verb in parentheses.

Example: The old building ~~on Grand Boulevard~~ (is, are) on fire.

1. The divorce rate in many cities (is, are) on the rise.
2. The cost of your purchases (is, are) very high.
3. The reasons for his bankruptcy (is, are) unknown.
4. The plants in the window (needs, need) water.
5. The dog at the front door (waits, wait) for his owner.
6. Her suggestions for my research project (helps, help) me a great deal.
7. The diamonds in your ring (shines, shine).
8. Talia, along with her husband, (visits, visit) Mrs. Linden every Sunday.
9. The colors of the flowers (is, are) vibrant.
10. The courses in managerial accounting (begins, begin) next fall.
11. The lamp on the dresser (stands, stand) too high.
12. The stamps in my collection (is, are) valuable to me.
13. My friends from the office (sends, send) me get-well cards.
14. The radio in my car (blares, blare) on my way to school to keep me awake.
15. Maple trees along the avenue (sways, sway) gently.

AGREEMENT: SUBJECTS JOINED BY *AND*

Subjects joined by *and* usually take a plural verb. These subjects are called compound subjects. Look at the following examples:

Dick and Brian work until 10:00 p.m. on Mondays.

subject = Dick and Brian

verb = work

The first draft of your report, the second revision, and the final version differ a great deal.
 subject = draft, revision, and version
 verb = differ

Again, remember that prepositional phrases coming between the subject and verb do not affect agreement:

The first draft ~~of your report~~, the second revision, and the final version differ a great deal.

Report is not part of the subject, but part of a prepositional phrase.

When a compound subject is preceded by *each* or *every*, the verb is usually singular. Look at these examples:

Every box and crate *has* a label.

Each window and glass door *is* spotless.

However, when a compound subject is followed by *each*, the verb is plural:

The car and truck each *have* limited warranties.



EXERCISE 1 ▶ In the sentences below, underline the subjects joined by *and*. Circle the correct verb in parentheses.

Example: The cactus and the rocks (forms, form) an interesting garden.

1. The top of the ski course and the bottom (seems, seem) far apart.
2. The polar bear and her cub (stands, stand) on the ice.
3. The dress on the mannequin and the one on my body (looks, look) different.
4. Sometimes doctors and their patients (disagrees, disagree) on certain treatments.
5. Your engine and power brakes (is, are) in good condition.
6. The purpose of the advertising campaign and its results (differs, differ).
7. The mare and the colt (runs, run) the length of the field.
8. Japanese investors and English firms (looks, look) at the U.S. for business acquisitions.



EXERCISE 2 ▶ Review the information on *each* and *every*. Circle the correct verb in parentheses.

Example: Each rose and chrysanthemum (is, are) perfect.

1. Every country and river (is, are) clear on the map.
2. Each skater and coach (congratulates, congratulate) the winner of the competition.
3. The boy and the girl each (runs, run) in the track meet.
4. Each sheet, towel, and blanket (is, are) monogrammed.
5. Paris and Madrid each (has, have) appealing restaurants.

AGREEMENT SUBJECTS JOINED BY OR, NOR, EITHER ... OR, NEITHER ... NOR

Agreement of compound subjects and their verbs is usually determined by the conjunction joining the subjects. When compound subjects are joined by *or*, *nor*, *either ... or*, or *neither ... nor*, the verb agrees with the subject closer to it. Look at the following examples:

Singular Subject + **Conjunction** + **Singular Subject** = **Singular Verb**
Dorothy or her daughter sings.

Plural Subject + **Conjunction** + **Plural Subject** = **Plural Verb**
The parents or the children sleep.

Singular Subject + **Conjunction** + **Plural Subject** = **Plural Verb**
The rabbit or the chickens eat.

Plural Subject + **Conjunction** + **Singular Subject** = **Singular Verb**
Swimmers or a diver competes.

Here are some other examples:

Either the dog or the parrot is a good pet for Antonia.

parrot = singular

verb = is = singular

Neither my neighbors nor my friends go to the new mall.

friends = plural

verb = go = plural

The blue scarf or the leather gloves are a good gift.

gloves = plural

verb = are = plural

The senior citizens or their representative attends the meetings.

representative = singular

verb = attends = singular



EXERCISE 1 ▶ In the sentences below, underline the part of the compound subject that determines agreement. Circle the correct verb in parentheses. In the blanks, write *singular* or *plural*.

Example: plural Either Val or the other teachers (gives, give) the test.

- ___ 1. Either procrastination or many chores (prevents, prevent) me from finishing my report.
- ___ 2. Members of the wedding party or the guests (is, are) in these pictures.
- ___ 3. Neither a dictionary nor a thesaurus (costs, cost) too much.

- _____ 4. The cardinals or the sparrow (eats, eat) the seeds left on the snow.
- _____ 5. The diamonds or the emerald (sells, sell) for an exorbitant price.
- _____ 6. Either the flood or the mudslides (causes, cause) much damage.
- _____ 7. The sweater or the belt (matches, match) your shoes.
- _____ 8. Either the bean sprouts or the cheese (smells, smell) bad.
- _____ 9. Either stamina or willpower (wins, win) the long race.
- _____ 10. The colors or the design (makes, make) the costume effective.

AGREEMENT: COLLECTIVE NOUNS

A *collective noun* has a singular form, but it refers to a group of people or things. Therefore, collective nouns are also called *group nouns*.

COMMON COLLECTIVE NOUNS

army	family
audience	group
choir	government
class	jury
committee	mob
company	orchestra
crowd	public
faculty	team

When the subject of a sentence is a collective noun, the verb of the sentence can be singular or plural, depending upon the meaning of the sentence.

Group as One Unit	Takes	Singular Verb
The committee		agrees.

Members of Group Acting Separately, as Individuals	Takes	Plural Verb	
The jury		go	home.

Here are some other examples:

The audience fails to applaud.

The audience acts together as one unit; consequently *audience* is singular, and the singular verb *fails* must be used.

The family eat dinner at different times because of their hectic schedules.

Each member of the family eats separately; in other words, each member of the family acts on an individual basis. Consequently, *family* is plural, and the plural verb *eat* must be used.

If the plural form is correct but sounds awkward, you can rephrase the sentence:

The members of the family eat dinner at different times because of their hectic schedules.

When *number* is used as a collective noun, agreement is determined by whether *the* or *a* precedes *number*. If *the* precedes it, the verb must be singular. If *a* precedes it, the verb must be plural. Look at the following examples:

The number of books is limited.
verb = is = singular

A number of books are missing.
verb = are = plural

A collective noun that indicates quantity or extent (miles, years, pounds, dollars, et cetera) takes a singular verb when the amount is considered as one unit. Look at the examples:

Thirty miles is too far to drive.
verb = is = singular

Ten dollars is an inexpensive price for this shirt.
verb = is = singular



EXERCISE 1 ► Underline the subject in each sentence below. Then circle the verb. In the blanks, write *singular* or *plural*.

Example: singular The choir (sings, sing) my favorite hymns.

- ___ 1. The number of necklaces in the case (is, are) small.
- ___ 2. The mob (chants, chant) a political slogan.
- ___ 3. Twenty pounds (seems, seem) like a great amount of weight to lose in a month.
- ___ 4. Our government (has, have) three branches.
- ___ 5. The team (spends, spend) holidays with their families.
- ___ 6. A number of odd disturbances (occurs, occur) during electrical storms.
- ___ 7. Fifty dollars (is, are) the cost of the groceries.
- ___ 8. The crowd (pushes, push) into the auditorium.

AGREEMENT: SENTENCES BEGINNING WITH *THERE*

Often sentences begin with *there*; however, *there* is not the subject of these sentences. Instead, the subject usually follows the verb. Look at the following example:

There are two children on the school bus.
subject = children
verb = are = plural

To find the subject, rearrange the sentence with the subject at the beginning of the sentence.

Two children are on the school bus.

Actually, it is best to avoid too many sentences beginning with *there* because this form adds words and delays the subject.



EXERCISE 1 ► Underline the subject in each of the following sentences. Circle the correct verb form in parentheses.

Example: There ((is), are) one key for the main door.

1. There (is, are) a discrepancy in the financial report.
2. There (is, are) two recorded versions of this song.
3. There (is, are) a large crater in the center of his field.
4. There (is, are) much work to be done on the house.
5. There (is, are) a problem that seems unresolvable.
6. There (is, are) support for his nomination.
7. There (is, are) a horse and its rider near the river bank.
8. There (is, are) loud noises coming from his room.

AGREEMENT: INVERTED SUBJECT AND VERB

When the subject and verb are *inverted*, the verb comes before the subject. Nevertheless, the subject and verb must still agree.

Frequently, inverted subjects and verbs occur in questions, as in the following examples:

Is Anthony still on the telephone with Jamie?

subject = Anthony
verb = is = singular

Where are my car keys?

subject = keys
verb = are = plural

Occasionally, inverted subject and verb order occurs for style and emphasis. The audience can be intentionally kept in suspense until the end of the sentence. Look at the example:

Accompanying Susan in the black, shiny limousine are her two brothers.

subject = brothers
verb = are = plural



EXERCISE 1 ► Underline the subject in each of the following sentences. Circle the correct verb form in parentheses.

Example: When ((is), are) the week of final exams?

1. (Is, Are) the pilot ready to take off?
2. Where (is, are) your car parked?

3. How (does, do) we find the auditorium?
4. Who (is, are) your friends?
5. From the horizon (comes, come) a golden glow.
6. What (is, are) the priorities of the assistant manager?
7. Where (is, are) those birds flying?
8. Why (is, are) these questions so difficult?
9. (Is, Are) the parameters constant?
10. Under the rickety porch (scurries, scurry) the hungry skunk.

AGREEMENT: CLAUSES BEGINNING WITH RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Some sentences include a dependent clause beginning with a relative pronoun: *who*, *which*, or *that*. The relative pronoun at the beginning of the dependent clause relates to a noun in the sentence. The noun is called the *antecedent*. The verb of the sentence agrees with this antecedent. Look at the following example:

The obstetrician listens carefully to the patients who discuss their concerns.
 dependent clause = who discuss their concerns
 antecedent = patients = plural
 verb = discuss = plural

When the sentence includes *one of*, the verb is plural:

Morley is one of those people who never leave a tip for the server.
 dependent clause = who never leave a tip for the server
 antecedent = people = plural
 verb = leave = plural

Several people never leave a tip, and Morley is one of them.

If the sentence includes *the only one of*, the verb is singular:

Johnson is the only one of those teachers who encourages me.
 dependent clause = who encourages me
 antecedent = one singular
 verb = encourages = singular

Among the teachers, only one, Johnson, is encouraging.



EXERCISE 1 ► For each sentence below, write the antecedent in the blank. Circle the correct verb in parentheses. Draw an arrow from the relative pronoun to its antecedent if it helps you to do so.

Example: bananas Use bananas that (is, are) ripe for this recipe.

- _____ 1. Your description is the only one that (includes, include) vivid details.
- _____ 2. The book is on the shelf that (is, are) in the back.
- _____ 3. We have a dog that (protects, protect) our house.
- _____ 4. The old windmill which no longer (works, work), has been abandoned.

- _____ 5. The only one of those students who (understands, understand) the theory is Gregory.
- _____ 6. I like movies that (portrays, portray) the 1930s in America.
- _____ 7. Light travels a distance which (seems, seem) incredible.
- _____ 8. Soolin is a science fiction character who (is, are) strong and practical.
- _____ 9. Henderson is one of those police officers who (is, are) working without a partner.

**CHAPTER
REVIEW
EXERCISE**

Complete the sentences below with your own words. Use present tense verbs and correct subject-verb agreement.

Example: Peter or his sisters *rehearse in this studio.* _____

- 1. The moon _____.
- 2. Vocabulary in college textbooks _____.
- 3. Neither the bread nor the rolls _____.
- 4. The faculty _____.
- 5. There _____.
- 6. Either the teacher or the students _____.
- 7. A look at the photograph _____.
- 8. Senator Brooks deals fairly with the people who _____.
- 9. There _____.
- 10. The company's president fired the person who _____.
- 11. Salad, soup, and bread _____.
- 12. My family _____.



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Other Principal Parts

PAST TENSE OF REGULAR VERBS

A verb in the past tense indicates action that happened in the past. A *regular verb* is a verb that forms its past tense by adding *-d* or *-ed*. This past tense is the same whether the subject is singular or plural. Look at the following examples:

She *lived* in New York for a year.
 The children *played* on the swings.
 He *married* Paul's sister.



EXERCISE 1 ▶ Circle the verbs in the following sentences. In the blanks, write past or present to indicate the tense of the verb.

Example: past Mitch (answered) the question.

- ___ 1. He owns over a hundred shirts.
- ___ 2. The nurse changed the sheets.
- ___ 3. We tried different ice cream flavors.
- ___ 4. She looked very tired and sleepy.
- ___ 5. The dog begs for food.
- ___ 6. Marcus opened the suitcase.
- ___ 7. The post office closes at 4:30 p.m.
- ___ 8. The spring rain smells fresh and clean.
- ___ 9. I studied most diligently.
- ___ 10. The baby needs a nap.
- ___ 11. The celebration lasted for three days.
- ___ 12. The instructor expected perfection.



EXERCISE 2 ▶ In the sentences below, change the present tense verb to past tense. Rewrite each sentence in the blank.

Present Tense

Past Tense

Example: She grabs the hat. *She grabbed the hat.* _____

1. He buries the treasure. _____
2. The officer stops the thief. _____
3. Mom fixes the garage door. _____
4. Our son stays all weekend. _____
5. The train derails. _____
6. The artist completes her work. _____
7. The cloud carries hail. _____
8. Abandoned houses scare me. _____
9. The writer revises his work. _____
10. I believe in you. _____
11. Grandmother worries too much. _____
12. She smiles at us. _____



EXERCISE 3 ▶ In the blanks below, write the past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

Example: Allan tried (try) to find a job.

1. A problem in the computer program _____ (cause) a major delay.
2. She _____ (apply) her stage make-up with an expert touch.
3. The elderly man _____ (fear) the possibility of living alone.
4. Because of his paranoia, he _____ (perform) poorly at work.
5. The team members _____ (coordinate) their separate schedules.
6. She _____ (change) the tire in the pouring rain.
7. The band _____ (march) in the Tournament of Roses Parade.
8. He _____ (tune) into his favorite rock station.
9. We _____ (learn) the difference between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation.
10. Kirk _____ (replace) his oil filter.
11. Some psychologists _____ (maintain) that television viewing has negative effects on children.
12. Ned _____ (stop) smoking and _____ (start) to exercise.
13. She _____ (cover) the hot bread to keep it warm.
14. The old, flowered wallpaper _____ (peel).
15. The article _____ (state) that the new tax laws are complicated.



EXERCISE 4 ▶ Write ten sentences of your own. Use present tense verbs.

Example: *I play the piano to relax.* _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

PAST TENSE OF IRREGULAR VERBS

An *irregular verb* does not form its past tense by adding *-d* or *-ed*. It forms its past tense in an irregular way. Look at these examples:

She *slept* late today.

We *wrote* descriptive paragraphs in class.

The shoes *fit* perfectly.

To effectively use the past tense of irregular verbs, you should memorize them and practice using them. The following list includes the simple form, past tense, and past participle of over one hundred irregular verbs. For now, you will study the past tense; in following parts of this chapter, you will need to refer to the list to study the past participles.

PRINCIPAL PARTS OF IRREGULAR VERBS

Principal Parts Do Not Change Form

Simple Form, Past Tense, and Past Participle

beat
bet
bid
burst
cast
cost
cut
fit
hit
hurt
let
put
quit
read
rid
set
shut
split
spread

**Past Tense and Past Participle Are the Same,
But Differ from the Simple Form**

<i>Simple Form</i>	<i>Past Tense and Past Participle</i>
bend	bent
lend	lent
send	sent
spend	spent
build	built
creep	crept
feel	felt
keep	kept
sleep	slept
sweep	swept
deal	dealt
mean	meant
leave	left
bleed	bled
feed	fed
flee	fled
lead	led
speed	sped
slide	slid
cling	clung
dig	dug
spin	spun
stick	stuck
sting	stung
strike	struck
swing	swung
wring	wrung
win	won
lay	laid
pay	paid
say	said
sell	sold
tell	told
bind	bound
find	found
grind	ground
wind	wound
bring	brought
buy	bought
fight	fought
think	thought
seek	sought

continued...

teach	taught
catch	caught
have	had
sit	sat
hear	heard
hold	held
shoot	shot
stand	stood
understand	understood

All Three Forms Are Different

<i>Simple Form</i>	<i>Past Tense</i>	<i>Past Participle</i>
be	was, were	been
draw	drew	drawn
fall	fell	fallen
shake	shook	shaken
take	took	taken
bear	bore	borne
swear	swore	sworn
tear	tore	torn
wear	wore	worn
blow	blew	blown
fly	flew	flown
grow	grew	grown
know	knew	known
throw	threw	thrown
begin	began	begun
drink	drank	drunk
ring	rang	rung
shrink	shrank	shrunk
sink	sank	sunk
sing	sang	sung
spring	sprang	sprung
swim	swam	swum

PRINCIPAL PARTS OF IRREGULAR VERBS

All Three Forms Are Different, continued

<i>Simple Form</i>	<i>Past Tense</i>	<i>Past Participle</i>
arise	arose	arisen
bite	bit	bitten
hide	hid	hidden
drive	drove	driven
ride	rode	ridden
stride	strode	stridden
strive	strove	striven
rise	rose	risen
write	wrote	written
break	broke	broken
freeze	froze	frozen
speak	spoke	spoken
steal	stole	stolen
get	got	gotten
forget	forgot	forgotten
choose	chose	chosen
give	gave	given
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forbid	forbade	forbidden
eat	ate	eaten
do	did	done
go	went	gone
lie (to recline)	lay	lain
see	saw	seen

Some verbs have two possible forms in the past tense, the past participle, or both.

IRREGULAR VERBS WITH MORE THAN ONE FORM

<i>Simple Form</i>	<i>Past Tense</i>	<i>Past Participle</i>
dive	dived or dove	dived
dream	dreamed or dreamt	dreamed or dreamt
hang	hung or hanged (hanged = executed)	hung or hanged
prove	proved	proved or proven
shine	shone or shined	shone or shined
wake	woke or waked	woken or waked

It is always a good idea to check your dictionary for principal parts of irregular verbs. If no past tense form is given in the dictionary, the verb is regular, so all you have to add for the past tense form is *-d* or *-ed*. In addition, the dictionary frequently gives information explaining when it is appropriate to use certain forms of a verb. And, of course, it gives the correct spelling.



EXERCISE 1 ► In the blanks below, write the past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

Example: He left (leave) his wallet at home.

1. Thieves _____ (steal) Audrey's new television.
2. Professor Samuels _____ (teach) at the university for thirty years.
3. She quietly _____ (shut) the windows.
4. He _____ (swing) the bat as hard as he could.
5. The children _____ (read) fairy tales about princes and princesses.
6. I _____ (seek) an answer to the problem before I (give) up.
7. The football _____ (fly) through the crisp autumn air.
8. You _____ (quit) before the time was up.
9. They _____ (stick) political posters on every street corner.
10. Mr. Burkhardt _____ (set) the coffee maker on his kitchen table.
11. In the mornings we _____ (grind) our own coffee beans.
12. The wound _____ (bleed) profusely.
13. The decorative house plants _____ (bring) joy to my grandparents.
14. The defendant _____ (swear) to tell the truth.
15. Mother _____ (forbid) Tina to stay out after midnight.
16. The wind _____ (blow) so hard that tree limbs (break).
17. The weeds _____ (spring) up faster than we had expected.
18. You _____ (pay) too much for that horrid haircut.
19. The marksman _____ (shoot) well in the competition.
20. I _____ (see) Elizabeth at the symphony performance.



EXERCISE 2 ► Write your own sentences. Use the past tense form of the verbs in parentheses.

Example: (shake) *She shook the jacket until the frog fell out of the pocket.* _____

1. (keep) _____

2. (drink) _____

3. (rid) _____

4. (catch) _____

5. (bend) _____

6. (understand) _____

7. (put) _____

8. (wind) _____

9. (spin) _____

10. (leave) _____

11. (go) _____

12. (choose) _____

13. (deal) _____

14. (tell) _____

15. (lend) _____

TO BE IN THE PAST TENSE

The verb *to be* is the only one that has different forms in the past tense for different persons.

TO BE IN THE PAST TENSE

<i>Singular</i>		<i>Plural</i>	
first person:	I was	first person:	we were
second person:	you were	second person:	you were
third person:	he was she was it was	third person:	they were

Notice that the first and third person singular forms are the same—*was*.
 Contractions formed with *not* added to *was* or *were* are as follows:

was + not = wasn't

were + not = weren't



EXERCISE 1 ► In the blanks, write the correct past tense form of *to be*.

Example: Last spring I was miserable from my allergies.

- The minister _____ in his study.
- Mr. Cheever _____ a friend of Chuck's father.
- Gerald _____ an actor of great talent.
- They _____ in their seats before the bell rang.
- We _____ shocked by his behavior.
- The necklace and wristwatch _____ not in the suitcase.
- Melba _____ on duty until 8:00 p.m.



EXERCISE 1 ► The sentences below each have a past tense verb. Supply the past participle in the blanks provided.

Example: She skated on the pond all afternoon.

has skated

1. My friends asked me to leave.
have _____
2. Mr. Becker stopped watching television.
has _____
3. This algebra problem stumped every student.
has _____
4. Dr. Nelson and her pets lived on a ranch.
have _____
5. The competitors cooked their best chili recipes in the cook-off.
have _____
6. Andrew stayed with her all the time during her illness.
has _____
7. The spy quickly closed the secret file.
has _____
8. Melinda learned all the muscles in the body for the test.
has _____



EXERCISE 2 ► Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the part participle form of the verbs in parentheses, plus *has* or *have*.

Example: The old chair has sagged (to sag) in the middle.

1. The vitamins _____ (to help) my arthritis.
2. The study of world geography _____ (to open) new doors for many students.
3. A bystander _____ (to tackle) the mugger.
4. The exchange student from Holland _____ (to learn) much about American culture.
5. They _____ (to study) to take the bar exam.
6. Jeans and sweatshirts _____ (to cause) us to feel more relaxed.
7. The International Technical Communication Conference _____ (to attempt) to cover relevant issues.
8. People who filled out the survey _____ (to answer) over fifty questions.
9. We _____ (to enroll) early for the summer session.
10. The citizens _____ (to refuse) to give in to the police department's demands.
11. Muhammad _____ (to file) a complaint.
12. He _____ not _____ (to lock) the back door.



EXERCISE 3 ► Write your own sentences using *has* or *have* with the past participle of the verbs in parentheses.

Example: (answer) *We have answered that question twice.*

1. (jump) _____
2. (step) _____
3. (plan) _____
4. (start) _____
5. (ask) _____
6. (open) _____
7. (close) _____
8. (dance) _____
9. (learn) _____
10. (form) _____

PAST PARTICIPLE OF IRREGULAR VERBS

The past participle forms of irregular verbs often change their spelling in various ways. Refer to the charts in this chapter which list past participles as you work the following exercises.



EXERCISE 1 ► The sentences below each have a past tense verb. Supply the past participle in the blanks.

Example: He bought Courtney a ruby ring.
has *bought*

1. The U.S. Hockey team beat the Canadian team.
has _____
2. Mona swept the leaves off the patio.
has _____
3. The children caught the flu virus.
have _____
4. She put the balloons in his office as a surprise.
has _____
5. We sold our neighbors our van.
have _____
6. He threw the Frisbee to his dog.
has _____
7. The runners ate meals high in carbohydrates.
have _____
8. I shrank my favorite sweater in warm water.
have _____



EXERCISE 2 ► Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the past participle form of the verbs in parentheses, plus *has* or *have*.

Example: We have sold (to sell) our pool table.

1. I _____ (to feed) the cats and the parrot.
2. We _____ (to find) a way to cure the common cold.
3. Her absence _____ (to hurt) our business.
4. She _____ (to say) too much already.
5. The man _____ (to swear) to find his missing report.
6. The young women _____ (to ride) their bicycles across the state.
7. All those gourmet meals _____ (to leave) them fat and lazy.
8. When _____ you _____ (to see) such a touching picture?
9. The exterminator _____ (to rid) the building of termites.
10. The research on a new vaccine _____ (to be) delayed.



EXERCISE 3 ► Write your own sentences using *has* or *have* with the past participle of the irregular verbs in parentheses.

Example: (see) I have seen this movie six times.

1. (stand) _____
2. (dig) _____
3. (win) _____
4. (do) _____
5. (go) _____
6. (drink) _____
7. (fall) _____
8. (slide) _____
9. (mean) _____
10. (put) _____

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

The perfect tense of a verb is formed with the helping verb *has* or *have*, plus the past participle of a verb. Perfect, when applied to verb tense, means completed. Consequently, a present perfect tense can show one of the following:

- An action began in the past and continued until now

Example: She has watched the snow for four hours. (She began watching the snow in the past, and she continued to watch it until now.)

- An action has just happened

Example: They have finished the meal. (They just now finished the meal.)

In both examples, this action is completed in the present.



EXERCISE 1 ► In the sentences below, if the action is in the past, write past in the blank. If the action began in the past and is continuing until now, write present perfect in the blank.

Example: present perfect I have waited to see you.

- ___ 1. Professor Wiemers showed a film on World War I.
- ___ 2. The neighbors have collected my mail.
- ___ 3. I stopped on the side of the road to rest.
- ___ 4. We have sung in the school choir for a year.
- ___ 5. Mike has given the supervisor his resignation.
- ___ 6. The sand castles have crumbled under our feet.
- ___ 7. Melanie worked for a clothing outlet.
- ___ 8. I have worked at Buzzy's for six months.



EXERCISE 2 ► Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the present perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses, plus *has* or *have*.

Example: Rick has delayed (to delay) the project as long as possible.

1. Detective Clement _____ (to search) everywhere for the suspect.
2. Jenna _____ (to apply) for a mail carrier's position.
3. They _____ (to argue) for the last time.
4. The English literature students _____ (to complete) their papers.
5. The psychologist _____ (to show) him a new way to handle his problem.
6. The law partnership _____ (to dissolve).
7. A deer _____ (to visit) our yard every night this week.
8. The choreographer _____ (to disagree) with the producer on which costumes to use.
9. The mineral collection _____ (to grow) to include malachite and quartz.
10. My biology course _____ (to take) more time than I expected.



EXERCISE 3 ► Write your own sentences using the present perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses.

Example: (stop) He has stopped on the side of the road.

1. (win) _____

2. (understand) _____

3. (regret) _____

4. (love) _____

5. (bring) _____

6. (see) _____

7. (want) _____

8. (hope) _____

PAST PERFECT TENSE

The *past perfect* tense includes *had* and the past participle of a verb. The past perfect tense indicates that an action was completed before another past action.

action completed before

Mason *had fed* the cat

another past action

by the time Gloria *arrived*.

Mason completed the action of feeding the cat before the action of Gloria's arriving.

action completed before

Dad *had forgotten* to lock the door

another past action

before he *went* to work.

Dad completed the action of forgetting to lock the door before the action of going to work.

In a sentence with both an independent clause and a dependent clause, the sequence of verb tenses must make sense. Usually the present perfect tense is used in relation to the present tense, and the past perfect tense is used in relation to the past tense.

Present Perfect Tense

Before I *have spent* my bonus,
Because Grace *has run* for office,

Present Tense

I *want* to buy a necklace.
we *admire* her.

Present Tense

They *say*
She *loves* him

Present Perfect Tense

the laundry *has ruined* your shirts.
because he *has saved* her life.

Past Perfect Tense

The patient *had gone* home
Because Ricardo *had cut* his hair,

Past Tense

before the doctor *arrived*.
he *looked* much younger.

Past Tense

Linda *told* me
He *showed* the dentist

Past Perfect Tense

that she *had quit* drinking tea.
where his mouth *had hurt*.



EXERCISE 1 ► Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the past perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses.

Example: We had built (to build) a small cactus garden.

- Ralph and his brother _____ (to start) a lawn trimming service.
- We _____ (to discuss) how to finance a new day-care center.
- I _____ (to set) the coffee pot on the table.
- The rabbi _____ (to talk) with the couple about their marital problems.
- The cellar of the old house _____ (to fill) with water.

6. The escaped convict _____ (to wound) a state trooper.
7. The wool blanket _____ (to shrink) in the hot dryer.
8. The head teller at Liberty Bank _____ (to resign) on Monday.
9. You _____ (to write) me no letters for six months.
10. A graduate student _____ (to research) the Catholic philosophy of romantic love for his thesis.
11. Our public relations department _____ (to develop) a new advertising campaign.
12. Because of time and severe weather, the tree _____ (to bend) in two places.



EXERCISE 2 ▶ In the blanks, write the present perfect tense or the past perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses.

Example: Jody told us that the company *had gone* (to go) bankrupt.

1. The fire _____ (to destroy) the house before the firefighters arrived.
2. We laughed because Alvin _____ (to trip) over his own feet.
3. Bernard likes to play golf when he _____ (to finish) his work.
4. The dinner tray fell to the floor because the orderly _____ (to bump) it.
5. When the late news on television begins, she _____ (to fall) asleep already.
6. Ed's blood pressure is stable; he _____ (to be) taking his medication.
7. The reporter uncovered some shocking facts before she _____ (to interview) Dr. Seaburt on the national news.
8. Mr. Alberts likes to ride his horse for an hour or two when he _____ (to be) cooped up in the office all day.
9. Studies _____ (to show) that identical twins seem to possess a kind of telepathy.
10. She said that a diet low in sugar _____ (to help) to control her illness.



EXERCISE 3 ▶ Write your own sentences using the past perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses.

Example: (watch) *The children had watched the clown during the parade.* _____

1. (need) _____

2. (assume) _____

3. (prevent) _____

4. (catch) _____

5. (prepare) _____

6. (whistle) _____

7. (try) _____

8. (be) _____

PASSIVE VOICE

A past participle form of a verb can be combined with forms of *to be* (am, is, are, was, *were*). Look at the following example:

The quilt was made by Dora.
 subject = quilt
 verb = was (helping verb) + made (past participle)

The quilt does not act but is acted upon by the verb. *By Dora* explains who performed the action.

When the subject is acted upon or receives the action, the subject is passive. When the subject is passive, the verb has passive voice. Look at the following examples:

Active Voice
 My uncle planted the oak tree.
 Marco baked the brownies.
 The insurance company increased
 all rates.

Passive Voice
 The oak tree was planted by my uncle.
 The brownies were baked by Marco.
 All rates were increased by the
 insurance company.

It is best to write in the active voice because it is stronger and more direct. However, the passive voice works well in the two following instances:

- When the actor is unknown
Example: John was robbed in the parking lot.
 The robber is unknown. The fact that John was robbed is the emphasis of the sentence.
- When the actor is not important or is less important than the object of the action
Example: In the first test, glycerin was added to the mixture.
 The person who added the glycerin is less important than the fact that glycerin was added.



EXERCISE 1 ► In the sentences below, underline the verb. Write *active* or *passive* in the blanks.

Example: ___ *passive* ___ The birthday present was hidden under the bed.

- ___ 1. Heavy snow fell in the Great Lakes area.
- ___ 2. I was warned by Marty not to drink the water.
- ___ 3. The squirrel dashed up the tree.
- ___ 4. The crime was never solved.
- ___ 5. The registration booth was manned by Luke.
- ___ 6. The girls' soccer team lost the last game of the season.
- ___ 7. She was encouraged by her humanities teacher.
- ___ 8. Belle was ninety-seven years old last Saturday.



EXERCISE 2 ▶ In each of the sentences below, underline the passive verb, and circle the subject.

Example: His rousing (speech) was cheered by the audience.

1. The children were greeted with balloons at the party.
2. His wallet was lost somewhere in the park.
3. The shirt was priced at only \$6.95.
4. A benefit performance was given at Lyric Theater.
5. The wedding cake was made by Gil.
6. The contract was signed by both parties.
7. Candles were replaced with flashlights during a storm.
8. The art exhibit was attended by five hundred people.



EXERCISE 3 ▶ Rewrite the sentences below by changing the passive voice to active voice.

Example: The schedule was set by the nurse in charge.

The nurse in charge set the schedule.

1. She was questioned by the attorney.

2. Stories of courage were told in Ladjamaya's songs.

3. The weight loss clinic was visited by Dave.

4. You were given a raise by Dr. Greenwood.

5. Rosa was loved by the children in her class.



EXERCISE 4 ▶ Rewrite the sentences below by changing the active voice to passive voice.

Example: Aunt Jean wore a blue dress.

A blue dress was worn by Aunt Jean.

1. Lionel played the harpsichord.

2. Your support encouraged me.

3. Debbie broke a world's record in diving.

4. Someone mugged him.

5. We uncorked the champagne at midnight.

PAST PARTICIPLE AS ADJECTIVE

Sometimes the past participle form of a verb can be used as an adjective. Look at the following examples:

Cassie is *pleased*.

The bottle is *broken*.

A *bored* child gets into trouble.

If the descriptive past participle refers to the subject and follows the verb, the verb is often a linking verb such as *appear*, *be*, *become*, *feel*, *look*, or *seem*. Look at these examples:

She appears *confused*.

We are *interested* in your theory.

Rene looked *tired* this morning.



EXERCISE 1 ► Underline the linking verbs in the sentences below. Then circle the past participle in parentheses.

Example: He is (marry, married).

1. They looked (embarrass, embarrassed) by his outburst.
2. She appears (surprise, surprised) by our gift.
3. The wedding dress was (borrow, borrowed) from her mother.
4. Mrs. Little becomes (bore, bored) with soap operas.
5. You seem (worry, worried) about your budget.
6. I am (relax, relaxed) by soft music.
7. My desk seems more (clutter, cluttered) every day.
8. Are the hamburgers (broil, broiled) or (fry, fried)?



EXERCISE 2 ► Use the past participle of the verbs in parentheses as adjectives. Write the descriptive past participle in the blanks.

Example: (decorate) A decorated cake made the party a success.

1. (hide) She could not find the _____ money.
2. (paint) The _____ lawn chairs look inviting.
3. (freeze) Do you really like _____ dinners?
4. (revise) The _____ manuscript is on Kyle's desk.
5. (type) Please make sure the report is _____.
6. (clean) Our _____ carpet smelled fresh.
7. (hurt) His _____ feelings are my fault.
8. (write) Where is the _____ purchase request?



EXERCISE 3 ► Write your own sentences. Use the past participle of the verbs in parentheses as adjectives.

Example: (lock) The locked door was no deterrent to the burglar.

1. (forbid) _____

PROGRESSIVE TENSE

All verbs have a *progressive tense*. The progressive tense includes two parts: a form of *to be* (*am, is, are, was, were*) and the *-ing* form of another verb. The progressive tense indicates continuing action. Regular and irregular verbs do not differ in the progressive tense.

In the present progressive tense, the present tense form of *to be* is used.

Present Progressive

I *am* writing. (irregular verb)
 You *are* singing. (irregular verb)
 He *is* pretending. (regular verb)
 We *are* going. (irregular verb)
 They *are* playing. (regular verb)

The present progressive tense can show either of the following:

- An action in progress now

Examples: I am writing a letter.
 They are playing Monopoly.

- An action that is going to happen in the future

Examples: I am going to the park later.
 They are coming to the track meet tomorrow.

Past Progressive

In the *past progressive* tense, the past tense form of *to be* is used. Look at the following examples:

I *was* writing. (irregular verb)
 You *were* singing. (irregular verb)
 He *was* pretending. (regular verb)
 We *were* going. (irregular verb)
 They *were* playing. (regular verb)

The past progressive tense shows that an action was in progress at a certain time in the past.

Remember to use the progressive tense only when you want to emphasize continuing action.



EXERCISE 1 ► The sentences below each have a present tense verb. Supply the present progressive and past progressive tenses in the blanks provided.

Example: Fritz speaks.

Present progressive: is speaking

Past progressive: was speaking

1. The electrician calls the main office.

Present progressive: _____

Past progressive: _____

2. The server pours the coffee.
Present progressive: _____
Past progressive: _____
3. My tulips and daffodils look beautiful.
Present progressive: _____
Past progressive: _____
4. A strange car stops in the driveway.
Present progressive: _____
Past progressive: _____
5. Chloe and her husband celebrate her promotion.
Present progressive: _____
Past progressive: _____
6. The announcer says something humorous.
Present progressive: _____
Past progressive: _____
7. Mr. Benton prepares his dinner.
Present progressive: _____
Past progressive: _____
8. Elton hopes to win the chess tournament.
Present progressive: _____
Past progressive: _____



EXERCISE 2 ▶ In the sentences below, the form of *to be* is missing. Since an *-ing* form of a verb all by itself is not a complete verb form, you must add *am, is, are, was, or were* to the *-ing* form. Supply the present progressive and past progressive forms in the blanks.

	Present Progressive	Past Progressive
Example: Jan helping me.	<u>is helping</u>	<u>was helping</u>
1. The men joking.	_____	_____
2. The old cat moving slowly.	_____	_____
3. Maria putting on mascara.	_____	_____
4. Rain ruining the cactus garden.	_____	_____
5. Leonard chopping carrots.	_____	_____
6. The lights blinking.	_____	_____
7. Children playing in the street.	_____	_____
8. The woman watching <i>Nova</i> .	_____	_____

7. (select)
 Present progressive: _____
 Past progressive: _____
8. (sell)
 Present progressive: _____
 Past progressive: _____

CONSISTENCY IN TENSE

Consistency in tense means using the same verb tense in a sentence or paragraph. You must avoid confusing your audience by suddenly shifting tenses without good reason. Look at the examples:

Inconsistent Tense: I *was* far from a gas station. I *worry* about getting home.

Consistent Tense: I *was* far from a gas station. I *worried* about getting home. (both past tense)

Consistent Tense: I *am* far from a gas station. I *worry* about getting home. (both present tense)

Of course, in some cases, shift in verb tense is necessary and logical. Look at the example:

Logical Shift: Last month Claire *made* a good salary, but now she *is* unemployed.

Last month indicates a past action, so the past tense *made* is necessary. *Now* indicates the present, so the shift to the present tense *is* is necessary.



EXERCISE 1 ► Underline the verbs in the sentences below. Correct any inconsistencies in verb tense.

Example: When I stopped to rest, I ^{fell} ~~fall~~ asleep.

1. We watched television for a while after we return to the dorm.
2. The tea cools when I dropped an ice cube in it.
3. They were strolling in the park when it begins to rain.
4. My favorite shoe store had a sale. I buy four pairs of shoes.
5. As soon as I finished my homework, I go to bed.
6. Hannah visited Greece last summer and stays for a week.
7. When she reached her destination, she calls me.
8. I was looking out the window when I see a flash of lightning.
9. We sailed all day yesterday and have a wonderful time.
10. The cat refused to eat when Uncle Joe gives him tuna.
11. He caught a cold whenever the weather gets cold and damp.
12. They are skating across the frozen pond when the ice broke.

HELPING VERBS

A *helping verb* is used with the main verb in a verb phrase. A helping verb combines with any of the following:

1. a simple verb form (*stay, write*, for example)
2. a present participle (the *-ing* form of a verb)
3. a past participle

Look at the examples:

Brad *will stay* in class. (helping verb + simple form)

The dog *is becoming* lazy. (helping verb + present participle)

Mother *had written* a letter. (helping verb + past participle)

A helping verb is used with the main verb to indicate a special time or meaning. Look at the following examples:

She *is smiling*. (an action occurring now)

She *might smile*. (a possibility now or in the future)

She *should smile*. (something ought to happen, now or in the future)

She *should have been smiling*. (a possibility in the past)

Helping verbs have either changing forms or fixed forms. Helping verbs with changing forms change to agree with the subject of a sentence. Helping verbs with fixed forms do not have to change to agree with the subject of a sentence; they always keep the same form.

HELPING VERBS WITH CHANGING FORMS

be	have
am	has
is	had
are	
was	do
were	does
	did

HELPING VERBS WITH FIXED FORMS

can	shall
could	should
may	will
might	would
must	

Helping verbs can work together to create long and complex verb phrases. Do not let an adverb in the middle of a verb phrase confuse you when you are identifying a verb phrase.

Example: The chiming clock *could have often frightened* the sleeping child.

Often is an adverb. *Could have frightened* is the verb.

Look at the meanings of the fixed-form helping verbs:

Can indicates ability, often used to show present tense.

Example: I can carry the groceries.

Could indicates ability when used to show the past tense of *can*.

Example: I could carry the groceries.

May indicates permission or possibility.

Example: You may stay up late. (permission)

Example: They may not understand the theory. (possibility)

Might indicates possibility or the past tense of *may*.

Example: We might buy a new car. (possibility)

Example: They might not understand the theory. (past tense of *may*)

Must indicates an obligation or reasonably so.

Example: You must eat the broccoli. (obligation)

Example: These shoes must be old. (reasonably so)

Shall indicates a question in first person, a request for an opinion or consent.

Example: Shall I call Les?

Should indicates obligation.

Example: I should study more.

Will indicates from the present to the future.

Example: She will perform well in the audition.

Would indicates the future also. It is the past tense of *will*.

Example: She would perform well in the auditorium.

It is important to use helping verbs correctly so that you can write complete sentences. If you omit a necessary helping verb, you will write a sentence fragment. Be sure your verbs are complete.

Incomplete: We *going* to the races.

Going is a present participle. The verb in the sentence is unfinished without a helping verb.

Corrected: We *are going* to the races.

Here is another example:

Incomplete: The man *eaten* the steak.

Eaten is a past participle. The verb in the sentence is unfinished without a helping verb.
Look at the corrected version:

Corrected: The man *has eaten* the steak.

In the examples, each incomplete verb needed a helping verb.



EXERCISE 1 ► In the sentences below, add the appropriate changing-form helping verb. Pay attention to the meaning and time indicated in each sentence (present or past tense).

Example: Captain Perkins had requested a transfer last week.

1. Yesterday they _____ singing as loudly as they could.
2. Janetta _____ not like to get up early.
3. I _____ been thinking about you all day.
4. Last month Tammy _____ tried to write a short story.
5. When we _____ leaving, the children will kiss us good-bye.
6. When we _____ leaving, the children misbehaved.
7. The portrait _____ not resemble Rosalind until the artist changed it.
8. The movie audience _____ not look happy now.
9. The movie audience _____ not look happy last night.
10. I _____ wondering where the sugar is.
11. Now he _____ eaten a huge meal.
12. I _____ concerned yesterday because you had not called.



EXERCISE 2 ► In the sentences below, supply either *can* or *could*. Pay attention to the tense indicated by the meaning of the sentence.

Example: I can call him now.

1. When everyone is at work, the dog _____ sleep on the sofa.
2. When everyone was at work, the dog _____ sleep on the sofa.
3. Wallace said that he _____ build a gazebo.
4. Wallace says that he _____ build a gazebo.
5. Yesterday I _____ tell Grant the truth.
6. Today I _____ not tell Grant the truth.
7. Last month you _____ not keep your appointment.
8. Now you _____ keep your appointment.
9. Perry thinks that you _____ do anything.
10. Perry thought that you _____ do anything.



EXERCISE 3 ► In the sentences below, supply either *will* or *would*. Pay attention to the tense indicated by the meaning of the sentence.

Example: Roberta knew she would do well in physics.

1. Hugh hopes that he _____ be a nuclear physicist in a few years.
2. Marnie says she _____ go to the conference in Kansas City.
3. Marnie said she _____ go to the conference in Kansas City.
4. If you eat so much, you _____ gain weight.
5. Because I hate to spend money, I _____ not go to the new bakery.
6. Because I hated to spend money, I _____ not go to the new bakery.
7. Tom is building a horse barn; he _____ finish it in another week.
8. She thinks that all businesses _____ cheat her.
9. She thought that all businesses _____ cheat her.
10. If they like roast beef at all, they _____ love mine.



EXERCISE 4 ► Correct the sentence fragments below by adding a helping verb to each one.

Example: The plate fallen off the table.

The plate had fallen off the table.

1. They gone to church.

2. He describing the procedure for a biopsy.

3. My neighbor winning \$1000.00 in a drawing.

4. The mouse caught in a trap.



EXERCISE 5 ► Write your own sentences using a form of the verbs in parentheses plus a helping verb. Underline the verb phrase in each sentence.

Example: (talk) He could have talked for hours.

1. (wait) _____

2. (improve) _____

3. (drive) _____

4. (pour) _____

5. (feel) _____

6. (resign) _____

7. (begin) _____

8. (forget) _____

9. (call) _____

10. (shop) _____

INFINITIVES



The *infinitive* form of a verb is *to* plus the simple form:

to listen

to walk

to practice

to stop

Look at the infinitives used in the following examples:

We have *to finish* wiring the building today.

His son hopes *to do* well in college.

Sophia wants *to sleep* on the sofa.

Herb decided *to apply* for a scholarship.

She was trying *to start* her car on a cold morning.

Try not to confuse infinitives with prepositional phrases (see Chapter 17).

	infinitive		prepositional phrase
I wanted	to take	flowers	to Rita.

The infinitive includes the verb *take* while the prepositional phrase includes the noun *Rita*.



EXERCISE 1 ► Underline the infinitives in the sentences below.

Example: They tried to convince him.

1. They decided to leave early.
2. The architects expect to finish the project by Tuesday.
3. She hopes to research the topic in a week.
4. The surgeon wants to operate tomorrow.
5. I enjoy watching athletes who want to win.
6. Rachel has to take a flu injection.
7. He tried to increase the output.
8. You have to be quiet now.
9. The tax assessor charged with soliciting bribes was asked to defend himself.
10. To understand the philosophy of existentialism can be difficult.



EXERCISE 2 ► Each verb below is either present tense, past tense, past participle, or progressive form. Put each one into the infinitive form. Then write a sentence using the infinitive form.

Example: (draw) Infinitive: to draw

Sentence: I have to draw a map for him.

1. (ate) Infinitive: _____
Sentence: _____
2. (plays) Infinitive: _____
Sentence: _____
3. (heard) Infinitive: _____
Sentence: _____
4. (spoken) Infinitive: _____
Sentence: _____
5. (watching) Infinitive: _____
Sentence: _____
6. (keep) Infinitive: _____
Sentence: _____
7. (waited) Infinitive: _____
Sentence: _____
8. (opening) Infinitive: _____
Sentence: _____