

# Regular and Irregular Verbs

## Regular Verbs

**9b.** A **regular verb** forms its past and past participle by adding *-d* or *-ed* to the base form.

BASE FORM OF VERB	PRESENT PARTICIPLE (-ING FORM)	PAST FORM (-ED FORM)	PAST PARTICIPLE (-ED FORM)
inspect	[is] inspecting	inspected	[have] inspected
shop	[is] shopping	shopped	[have] shopped
disagree	[is] disagreeing	disagreed	[have] disagreed

**TIP** When people speak quickly, they sometimes sound as though they are dropping the *-d* or *-ed* ending, especially in words like *used*, *supposed*, and *prejudiced*. No matter how these words sound to you, they are spelled with *-ed*.

**NONSTANDARD** Tim was suppose to be here. [The *-ed* is missing from the past form.]

**STANDARD** Tim was **supposed** to be here.

**EXERCISE A** Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct form of the regular verb. The verb you will use is given in parentheses after each sentence.

**Example 1.** I shopped at the grocery store yesterday. (*shop*) [The past tense of *shop* is *shopped*.]

- The vegetable bins \_\_\_\_\_ fresh spinach, mushrooms, and ginger root. (*offer*) [What is the past form of the verb in parentheses?]
- Am I \_\_\_\_\_ to buy ginger root? (*suppose*)
- I have \_\_\_\_\_ scallops, but I have never eaten mussels. (*taste*)
- As I was \_\_\_\_\_ through the store, I saw the display of spices. (*walk*)
- I could have \_\_\_\_\_ all the types of spice, but I did not have time. (*count*)

## Irregular Verbs

**9c.** An **irregular verb** forms its past and past participle in some other way than by adding *-d* or *-ed* to the base form.

Irregular verbs form their past and past participle in several ways. The verb's vowel may change, or the verb's consonants may change.

BASE FORM	PRESENT PARTICIPLE	PAST FORM	PAST PARTICIPLE
sing	[is] singing	sang	[have] sung
bind	[is] binding	bound	[have] bound
spend	[is] spending	spent	[have] spent

**TIP** When you are not sure whether a verb is regular or irregular, do not guess. Look the verb up in a good dictionary. The dictionary will list all irregular forms of a verb.

**EXERCISE B** Circle the correct form of the irregular verb in each sentence. Hint: You may want to review the list of irregular verbs in your textbook before doing this exercise.

**Example 1.** She (ran *run*) her first marathon last weekend. [The vowel *u* in *run* changes to *a* in the past form *ran*.]

6. Look! Your baby brother (*built, builded*) a tower of four blocks. [Does the vowel or consonant change in the past form?]
7. Sadly, our soccer team (*lost, losed*) the second game.
8. I (*becomed, became*) sleepy during the late movie.
9. Have the trees (*began, begun*) to lose their leaves?
10. My uncle (*sent, sended*) me a photograph of his new house.

To form the past and the past participle, an irregular verb's vowels *and* consonants may change, or the verb may make no changes at all.

BASE FORM	PRESENT PARTICIPLE	PAST FORM	PAST PARTICIPLE
buy	[is] buying	bought	[have] bought
bring	[is] bringing	brought	[have] brought
burst	[is] bursting	burst	[have] burst

**EXERCISE C** Circle the correct form of the irregular verb in each sentence. Hint: You may want to review the list of irregular verbs in your textbook before doing this exercise.

**Example 1.** Ralph (*feeled, felt*) much better after he rested. [Both the vowel and the final consonant of *feel* change to form the past *felt*.]

11. The cat (*put, putted*) its toy mouse on my pillow! [Does the past form change?]
12. What have you (*sold, selled*) at the garage sale so far?
13. How many pecans have (*falled, fallen*) from the tree?
14. Jess (*speaked, spoke*) at the last meeting of the school board.
15. Those two shirts (*cost, costed*) less at the other store.

# Tense

## The Six Tenses

**9d.** The **tense** of a verb indicates the time of the action or state of being expressed by the verb.

The time of an action or state of being can be **past**, **present**, or **future**. Every verb has six tenses. The six tenses indicate different ways of expressing time.

Here are three tenses.

**PRESENT** The mole **digs** a burrow. [The present tense verb *digs* indicates an action that happens regularly.]

**PRESENT PERFECT** The mole **has dug** a burrow. [The present perfect tense verb *has dug* indicates an action that started to happen sometime in the past. The action may continue into the present.]

**PAST** The mole **dug** a burrow. [The past tense verb *dug* indicates an action that happened at a particular time in the past.]

**EXERCISE A** Identify the tense of each underlined verb in the following sentences. Write *present*, *present perfect*, or *past* on the line provided.

**Example** present perfect 1. Has Reed finished his report already? [*Has finished* is the present perfect tense of the verb *finish*.]

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. We gathered wild blackberries last summer. [Which verb tense indicates an action that happened last summer?]

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The student council meets twice a month.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Have you ever eaten a perfectly ripe mango?

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. The bats fly out of the cave at dusk.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The movie has already started.

Here are three more tenses.

**PAST PERFECT** The mole **had dug** a burrow. [The past perfect tense verb *had dug* indicates an action that happened before a specific time in the past.]

**FUTURE** The mole **will dig** a burrow. [The future tense verb *will dig* indicates an action that will happen in the future.]

**FUTURE PERFECT** The mole **will have dug** a burrow. [The future perfect tense verb *will have dug* indicates an action that will have happened before a specific time in the future.]

**EXERCISE B** Identify the tense of each underlined verb in the following sentences. Write *past perfect*, *future*, or *future perfect* on the line provided.

**Example** future 1. The bread will taste better when we toast it. [*Will taste* is the future tense of the verb *taste*.]

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. By December, we will have lived in Nebraska for a year. [Which tense indicates an action that will have happened by a specific time in the future?]

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. With hard work and a good attitude, they will succeed.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. He had eaten breakfast before he came to school.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. By the time she finishes this book, she will have read a thousand pages.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. The drama class had already ainted the scenery.

## The Progressive Form

Each tense also has an additional form called the *progressive form*. The progressive form expresses an action or state of being that keeps going on. In each tense, the progressive form of a verb consists of the appropriate form of *be* plus the verb's present participle.

**REMINDER** ▶ The present participle is the *-ing* form of the verb.

**PRESENT PROGRESSIVE** Tad **is cleaning** the computer.

**PAST PROGRESSIVE** Tad **was cleaning** the computer.

**FUTURE PROGRESSIVE** Tad **will be cleaning** the computer.

**PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE** Tad **has been cleaning** the computer.

**PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE** Tad **had been cleaning** the computer.

**FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE** Tad **will have been cleaning** the computer.

**EXERCISE C** Write the verb form indicated in parentheses on the line provided.

**Example** 1. My father will be arriving home soon. (future progressive form of *arrive*) [The future progressive form of *arrive* is *will be arriving*.]

11. The two-year-old \_\_\_\_\_ around the playground. (past progressive form of *run*)  
[Progressive forms use a form of the verb *be* and the *-ing* form of the verb.]

12. Next summer, I \_\_\_\_\_ my grandparents in Canada. (future tense of *visit*)

13. Athletes \_\_\_\_\_ part in Olympic games as early as 776 B.C. (past tense of *take*)

14. By next month, Nancy \_\_\_\_\_ enough money for the trip. (future perfect tense of *earn*)

15. Matthew \_\_\_\_\_ a poster for the play. (present perfect tense of *design*)

## Sit and Set, Rise and Raise, Lie and Lay

### Sit and Set

The verb *sit* means “to be seated” or “to rest.” *Sit* seldom takes an object.

**REMINDER** ▶ An object is a word that receives the action of a verb.

**EXAMPLE** The audience **had sat** patiently for an hour. [*Had sat* means *had been seated*. There is no object.]

The verb *set* usually means “to place (something somewhere)” or “to put (something somewhere).” *Set* usually takes an object.

**EXAMPLE** Adam, please **set** the groceries on the counter. [*Set* takes an object, *groceries*.]

**TIP** ▶ To choose between *sit* and *set*, try replacing the verb with a form of *put*. If the new sentence makes sense, then you will probably use a form of the verb *set*. If the new sentence does *not* make sense, then you will probably use a form of the verb *sit*.

**EXAMPLES** Can you (*sit* or *set*) up the volleyball net by yourself? [Does *Can you put up the volleyball net by yourself* make sense? Yes, so *set* is the right verb to use.]  
Can your baby sister (*sit* or *set*) up by herself? [Does *Can your baby sister put up by herself* make sense? No, so *sit* is the right verb to use.]

**EXERCISE A** Circle the verb that correctly completes each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** (Sit) *Set* down in the waiting room, please. [*Sit* means *be seated* and has no object.]

1. Have you (*sit*, *set*) your books on the shelf? [Does the verb have an object?]
2. The cardinal is (*sitting*, *setting*) on its nest.
3. Last week, we (*sat*, *set*) at a table in the back of the cafeteria.
4. At 7:00 yesterday morning, we were (*sitting*, *setting*) up the obstacle course.
5. The students had already (*sat*, *set*) up the experiment.

### Rise and Raise

The verb *rise* means “to move upward” or “to go up.” *Rise* does not take an object.

**EXAMPLE** On some days, the moon **rises** while the sun is still out. [*Rises* means *goes up* and does not take an object.]

The verb *raise* usually means “to lift something up.” *Raise* usually takes an object.

**EXAMPLE** The woman **is raising** her hand. [*Is raising* takes an object, *hand*.]

**EXERCISE B** Circle the verb that correctly completes each sentence.

**Example 1.** Did Nora (raise *rise*) the flag this morning? [The verb has an object, *flag*, so *raise* is the correct verb.]

6. The sun had (*raised*, *risen*) by the time we left. [Does the verb have an object?]
7. The birds will (*raise*, *rise*) the hatchlings.
8. Mark (*rose*, *raised*) from his chair and walked to the chalkboard.
9. Poison ivy always (*raises*, *risen*) an itchy red rash on my skin.
10. Brick by brick, the walls of the new house are (*rising*, *raising*) higher each day.

### *Lie and Lay*

The verb *lie* usually means “to recline,” “to be in a place,” or “to remain lying down.” *Lie* does not take an object.

**EXAMPLE** Kathleen **lies** down for a quick nap in the afternoon. [*Lies* means *reclines* and does not have an object.]

The verb *lay* usually means “to put (something) down” or “to place (something somewhere).” *Lay* usually takes an object.

**EXAMPLE** Maria **laid** the newspaper on the table. [*Laid* means *placed* and takes an object, *newspaper*.]

**TIP** To choose between *lie* and *lay*, try replacing the verb with a form of *put*. If the new sentence makes sense, then you will probably use a form of the verb *lay*. If the sentence does *not* make sense, then you will probably use a form of the verb *lie*.

**EXAMPLES** (*Lie* or *Lay*) your head on this pillow. [Does *Put your head on this pillow* make sense? Yes, so *lay* is the correct verb to use.]

He had obviously been (*lying* or *laying*) in the sun too long. [Does *He had obviously been putting in the sun too long* make sense? No, so *lie* is the correct verb to use.]

**EXERCISE C** Circle the verb that correctly completes each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** The catfish (lay *laid*) on the river bottom. [*Lay* is the past tense of *lie* and means *reclined*. The verb has no object.]

11. (*Lay*, *Lie*) that hammer down, and help me with this board. [Does the verb have an object?]
12. Whose socks are (*laying*, *lying*) in the hallway?
13. Did I (*lie*, *lay*) my notebook on your desk?
14. The clerk stacked up the folded shirts and (*lay*, *laid*) them on the counter.
15. The cat has (*lain*, *laid*) in this sunny spot all morning.