Regular and Irregular Verbs

Regular Verbs

A regular verb forms its past and past participle by adding –d or –ed to the base form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BASE FORM</th>
<th>PRESENT PARTICIPLE</th>
<th>PAST FORM</th>
<th>PAST PARTICIPLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inspect</td>
<td>[is] inspecting</td>
<td>inspected</td>
<td>[have] inspected</td>
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<tr>
<td>shop</td>
<td>[is] shopping</td>
<td>shopped</td>
<td>[have] shopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>[is] disagreeing</td>
<td>disagreed</td>
<td>[have] disagreed</td>
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**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 ____ at the grocery store yesterday. *(shop)* [The past tense of shop is shopped.]

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

Irregular Verbs

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.

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<td>[is] singing</td>
<td>sang</td>
<td>[have] sung</td>
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<tr>
<td>bind</td>
<td>[is] binding</td>
<td>bound</td>
<td>[have] bound</td>
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<tr>
<td>spend</td>
<td>[is] spending</td>
<td>spent</td>
<td>[have] spent</td>
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**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.

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<td>burst</td>
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**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**

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 painted 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 ____________ 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.

**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.]

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 \(\text{raise, rise}\) the flag this morning? [The verb has an object, flag, so \textit{raise} is the correct verb.]

6. The sun had \(\text{raised, risen}\) by the time we left. [Does the verb have an object?]

7. The birds will \(\text{raise, rise}\) the hatchlings.

8. Mark \(\text{rose, raised}\) from his chair and walked to the chalkboard.

9. Poison ivy always \(\text{raises, rises}\) an itchy red rash on my skin.

10. Brick by brick, the walls of the new house are \(\text{rising, raising}\) higher each day.

**Lie and Lay**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. \(\text{Lay, Lie}\) that hammer down, and help me with this board. [Does the verb have an object?]

12. Whose socks are \(\text{laying, lying}\) in the hallway?

13. Did I \(\text{lie, lay}\) my notebook on your desk?

14. The clerk stacked up the folded shirts and \(\text{lay, laid}\) them on the counter.

15. The cat has \(\text{lain, laid}\) in this sunny spot all morning.