**Using Verbs Correctly Study Guide**

**PRINCIPAL PARTS OF VERBS**

The four basic forms of a verb are called the *principal parts.*

The four principal parts of a verb are the ***base form***, ***the present participle***, ***the past*,** and the ***past participle***.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Base Form | Present Participle | Past | Past Participle |
| sing  use | (is) singing  (is) using | sang used | (have) sung  (have) used |

Notice that the present participle and the past participle require helping verbs (forms of *be* and *have*).

As you can see from their names, the principal parts of a verb are used to express time.

PRESENT TIME - Every morning we **sing** a wake-up song.

Larry **is singing** it right now.

PAST TIME - Isabel **sang** her first song out of tune.

She **had sung** it better during her lesson.

FUTURE TIME - Sudi **will sing** a traditional Swahili song during the assembly.

He **will have sung** at three assemblies this year.

Because *use* forms its past and past participle by adding —*d*, it is called a ***regular verb***. Sing forms its past and past participle differently, so it is called an ***irregular verb***.

**REGULAR VERBS**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Base Form** | **Present Participle** | **Past** | **Past Participle** |
| help  like  start  nap | (is) helping  (is) liking  (is) starting  (is) napping | helped  liked  started  napped | (have) helped  (have) liked  (have) started  (have) napped |

Most regular verbs that end in —e drop the ***e*** before adding —*ing.*

Some regular verbs double the final consonant before adding —*ing* or —*ed*.

**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.

If you are not sure about the principal parts of a verb, look in a dictionary. Entries for irregular verbs list the principal parts of the verb. If the principal parts are not listed, the verb is a regular verb.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COMMON IRREGULAR VERBS** | | | |
| **Base Form** | **Present Participle** | **Past** | **Past Participle** |
| begin  blow  break  bring | (is) beginning  (is) blowing  (is) breaking  (is) bringing | began  blew  broke  brought | (have) begun  (have) blown  (have) broken  (have) brought |
| burst  catch  choose  come | (is) bursting  (is) catching  (is) choosing  (is) coming | burst  caught  chose  came | (have) burst  (have) caught  (have) chosen  (have) come |
| cut  do  draw  drink | (is) cutting  (is) doing  (is) drawing  (is) drinking | cut  did  drew  drank | (have) cut  (have) done  (have) drawn  (have) drunk |
| drive  eat  fall  freeze | (is) driving  (is) eating  (is) falling  (is) freezing | drove  ate  fell  froze | (have) driven  (have) eaten  (have) fallen  (have) frozen |
| give  go  hurt  know | (is) giving  (is) going  (is) hurting  (is) knowing | gave  went  hurt  knew | (have) given  (have) gone  (have) hurt  (have) known |
| lead  lend  make  ride | (is) leading  (is) lending  (is) making  (is) riding | led  lent made rode | (have) led  (have) lent  (have) made  (have) ridden |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COMMON IRREGULAR VERBS** | | | |
| **Base Form** | **Present Participle** | **Past** | **Past Participle** |
| ring  run  see  shrink | (is) ringing  (is) running  (is) seeing  (is) shrinking | rang  ran  saw shrank | (have) rung  (have) run  (have) seen  (have) shrunk |
| sing  sink  speak  steal | (is) singing  (is) sinking  (is) speaking  (is) stealing | sang  sank or sunk spoke  stole | (have) sung  (have) sunk or sunken  (have) spoken  (have) stolen |
| swim  take  tear  throw | (is) swimming  (is) taking  (is) tearing  (is) throwing | swam took  tore threw | (have) swum  (have) taken  (have) torn  (have) thrown |
| wear  win  write | (is) wearing  (is) winning  (is) writing | wore  won  wrote | (have) worn  (have) won  (have) written |

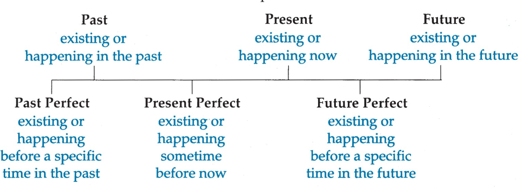
**TENSE**

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

*Every verb has six tenses*

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| --- | --- |
| **Tenses** | **Examples** |
| **Present** | I speak, you speak, she speaks |
| **Past** | I spoke, we spoke, they spoke |
| **Future** | I will (shall) speak, you will speak, they will speak |
| **Present Perfect** | I have spoken, you have spoken, she has spoken |
| **Past Perfect** | I had spoken, you had spoken, he had spoken |
| **Future Perfect** | I will (shall) have spoken, you will have spoken, they will have spoken |

This time line shows the relationship between tenses.



**SIT *AND* SET**

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

The verb ***set*** means "to place (something)" or "to put (something)." ***Set*** usually takes an object. Notice that ***set*** has the same form for the base form, past, and past participle.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Base Form** | **Present Participle** | **Past** | **Past Participle** |
| sit  set | (is) sitting  (is) setting | sat  set | (have) sat  (have) set |

EXAMPLES: You ***will sit*** on the chair next to Yori. [no object]

You ***will set*** the iron on a potholder.

[You will set what? *Iron* is the object.]

The three hikers ***have sat*** on the old stone wall. [no objectl

Ms. Sullivan ***has set*** my books on a special shelf.

[Ms. Sullivan has set what? *Books* is the object.]



If you don't know whether to use ***sit*** or ***set*** in a sentence, try substituting **put**. If the sentence makes sense with **put**, use set.

**RISE *AND* RAISE**

The verb ***rise*** means "to go upward" or "to get up." ***Rise***never takes an object.

The verb ***raise*** means "to lift (something) up." ***Raise*** usually takes an object.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Base Form** | **Present Participle** | **Past** | **Past Participle** |
| rise  raise | (is) rising  (is) raising | rose raised | (have) risen  (have) raised |

EXAMPLES: The bunch of balloons ***is rising***. [no object]

The students ***are raising*** their hands.

[The students are raising what? *Hands* is the object.]

The plane rose through the thick fog. [no object]

Before school, we raised the flag.

[We raised what? *Flag* is the object.]

**LIE *AND* LAY**

The verb lie means "to recline, to be in a place," or "to remain lying down." Lie never takes an object. The verb lay means "to put (something) down" or "to place (something)." Lay usually takes an object.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Base Form** | **Present Participle** | **Past** | **Past Participle** |
| lie  lay | (is) lying  (is) laying | lay  laid | (have) lain  (have) laid |

EXAMPLES: That rug ***lies*** crooked on the floor. [no objectl

The cat ***lays*** its toys on the doormat.

[The cat lays what? Toys is the object.]

The logs ***have lain*** under the leaves for a long time. [no objectl

Arturo ***has laid*** the bricks on the path.

[Arturo has laid what? Bricks is the object.]