**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** |
| helplikestartnap | (is) helping(is) liking(is) starting(is) napping | helpedlikedstartednapped | (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 | beganblew broke brought | (have) begun(have) blown(have) broken(have) brought |
| burst catch choosecome | (is) bursting(is) catching (is) choosing(is) coming | burst caught chose came | (have) burst(have) caught(have) chosen(have) come |
| cut do drawdrink | (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 | droveate 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 | ledlent 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 runseeshrink | (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.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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.]