

English Grammar: Verbs Study Guide

by
Karl Weber, M.A.



Video Aided Instruction, Inc.
Roslyn Heights, New York

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English Grammar: Verbs

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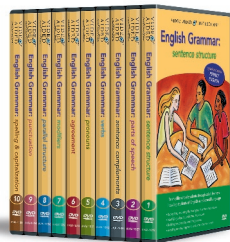
isbn 1-57385-104-3 · upc 600459104399

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English Grammar: Verbs Study Guide

Introduction

Video Aided Instruction's English Grammar Series makes the tricky rules of English grammar easier to learn than ever before – whether you're new to English or you've been speaking it for years!

The verb is the heart of every sentence. It communicates all of the action, and gives the sentence meaning by saying something about the subject. In this informative program, you'll learn how the context of the sentence dictates which verb tense to use, and you'll even learn how to tackle those tricky irregular verbs!

Before you begin studying, let us make a few recommendations. First, have a notebook and pen ready so you're prepared to take notes. You'll probably want to use the many on-screen graphics to take notes for yourself – when you're done, you'll have a notebook on English grammar that you can refer back to again and again.

Secondly, don't forget to take advantage of your "pause" button while viewing the program. This will allow you to try to complete the exercises in this study guide before you view the answers on-screen.

Finally, don't try to absorb too much at one time. By viewing the program over a number of short sessions (instead of all at once), you'll stay "fresher" and retain more of what you learn. And don't forget: you can review the entire program, or specific sections, as many times as you need to!

Now you can eliminate embarrassing mistakes from your speaking and writing forever. Let Video Aided Instruction be your guide!

About the Author

Karl Weber, M.A., is a professional writer, editor, and teacher. He is the author of two popular series of test prep guidebooks, and has worked on books with such noted personalities as former President Jimmy Carter, Ambassador Richard Butler, and U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt.

Lesson 1 – Verb Tenses

Exercise 1

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a verb is underlined. Using clues from the meaning of the sentence, decide whether the tense of the verb is correct or incorrect. If it is incorrect, decide what verb tense would be correct, and rewrite the sentence.

1. I am a student at the Henderson Academy; I study there for the past two years.
2. By the time of our arrival in Houston next Sunday, we have traveled over five hundred miles.
3. Before he sprained his ankle, Charles exercises in the weight room three times a week.
4. When she applied for her job at the airline, Diane stated that she had served in the U.S. Air Force.
5. Last month, Luis has captured his third consecutive championship in a college swim meet.

Lesson 2 – Irregular Verbs

Conjugations of the Verb "To Be"

present tense	
I am	we are
you are	you are
he / she / it is	they are
past tense	
I was	we were
you were	you were
he / she / it was	they were
future tense	
I will be	we will be
you will be	you will be
he / she / it will be	they will be
present perfect tense	
I have been	we have been
you have been	you have been
he / she / it has been	they have been
past perfect tense	
I had been	we had been
you had been	you had been
he / she / it had been	they had been
future perfect tense	
I will have been	we will have been
you will have been	you will have been
he / she / it will have been	they will have been

Some Commonly-Used Irregular Verbs

<i>infinitive</i>	<i>present participle</i>	<i>past</i>	<i>past participle</i>
be	<i>is being</i>	was	<i>has been</i>
bear	<i>is bearing</i>	bore	<i>has born</i>
begin	<i>is beginning</i>	began	<i>has begun</i>
break	<i>is breaking</i>	broke	<i>has broken</i>
bring	<i>is bringing</i>	brought	<i>has brought</i>
buy	<i>is buying</i>	bought	<i>has bought</i>
catch	<i>is catching</i>	caught	<i>has caught</i>
choose	<i>is choosing</i>	chose	<i>has chosen</i>
come	<i>is coming</i>	came	<i>has come</i>
cut	<i>is cutting</i>	cut	<i>has cut</i>
dive	<i>is diving</i>	dove	<i>has dove</i>
do	<i>is doing</i>	did	<i>has done</i>
dream	<i>is dreaming</i>	dreamt	<i>has dreamt</i>
drink	<i>is drinking</i>	drank	<i>has drunk</i>
drive	<i>is driving</i>	drove	<i>has driven</i>
eat	<i>is eating</i>	ate	<i>has eaten</i>
fall	<i>is falling</i>	fell	<i>has fallen</i>
get	<i>is getting</i>	got	<i>has got or has gotten</i>
give	<i>is giving</i>	gave	<i>has given</i>
go	<i>is going</i>	went	<i>has gone</i>
grow	<i>is growing</i>	grew	<i>has grown</i>
know	<i>is knowing</i>	knew	<i>has known</i>
lead	<i>is leading</i>	led	<i>has led</i>
ride	<i>is riding</i>	rode	<i>has ridden</i>
run	<i>is running</i>	ran	<i>has run</i>
see	<i>is seeing</i>	saw	<i>has seen</i>
send	<i>is sending</i>	sent	<i>has sent</i>
set	<i>is setting</i>	set	<i>has set</i>
sing	<i>is singing</i>	sang	<i>has sung</i>
sit	<i>is sitting</i>	sat	<i>has sat</i>
speak	<i>is speaking</i>	spoke	<i>has spoken</i>
stand	<i>is standing</i>	stood	<i>has stood</i>
swim	<i>is swimming</i>	swam	<i>has swum</i>
think	<i>is thinking</i>	thought	<i>has thought</i>
wear	<i>is wearing</i>	wore	<i>has worn</i>
write	<i>is writing</i>	wrote	<i>has written</i>

Principal Parts of the Irregular Verb "To Lie" (as in "to recline")

infinitive	
lie	<i>examples:</i> My cat likes to lie near the heater. I will lie on the floor when I do some of my exercises tomorrow
present participle	
lying	<i>examples:</i> Judy is lying down in her new bed. Fred has been lying on that couch for hours.
past	
lay	<i>examples:</i> Joe lay asleep in his chair when his daughter returned from the party. The little boy lay on the cot while he waited for the doctor.
past participle	
lain	<i>examples:</i> Their dog has lain on the new furniture many times before. I had just lain down for a quick nap when the phone rang.

Note: The other "to lie" (as in "to tell a falsehood") isn't an irregular verb.

Principal Parts of the Irregular Verb "To Lay" (as in "to place")

infinitive	
lay	<i>examples:</i> My cat likes to lay his toy at my feet. I will lay my exercise mat on the floor before yoga class begins.
present participle	
laying	<i>examples:</i> Judy is laying her new outfit out on the bed. Fred has been laying his dirty dishes on the counter for years.
past	
laid	<i>examples:</i> Joe laid his eyeglasses on the table before falling asleep. The doctor laid a pillow beneath the boy's sprained ankle.
past participle	
laid	<i>examples:</i> Their dog has laid her bone next to the remote control. I had just laid the last clean dish in the rack when the phone rang.

Exercise 2

Directions: In each of the following sentences, an irregular verb is underlined. Decide whether or not the form of the irregular verb is correct. If it is incorrect, decide what the correct form would be.

1. The mechanic examined the car and discovered that the accident had broken its rear axle.
2. Last January, thirty members of the Polar Bear Club swum in the frigid waters of Long Island Sound.
3. By the time Gary arrived at the restaurant, Maria had went home.
4. With a triumphant grin, Sam lain his cards face up on the table and declared, "Three kings!"
5. The famous Boys Choir of Harlem has sung in concert halls throughout the United States.

Lesson 3 – The Subjunctive Mood

Exercise 3

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a verb in the subjunctive mood is required. Fill in the blank with the correct subjunctive form of the verb whose infinitive form appears at the end of the sentence.

1. If the captain _____ that the storm was coming, he would have insisted on returning to port. (*know*)
2. Although Paul has a successful career as a lawyer, he still wishes he _____ a rock musician. (*be*)
3. The doctor recommended that Andrea _____ a diet restricted to low-salt, low-fat foods. (*eat*)
4. Wouldn't you be happy if you _____ the next race? (*win*)
5. The new law passed by the City Council requires that the Mayor _____ a budget for approval no later than April first. (*submit*)