

McGRAW-HILL'S ESSENTIAL

English Irregular Verbs

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Page 1 of 254

A Reference for Beginning
to Advanced ESL Students

2 VERB FORMS AND TENSE USAGE

I may **be** a little late.
He will **be** in New York all week.
You must **be** more careful.

Other verbs followed by the base form of a verb include *dare* (with *not*), *need* (with *not*), and *help*.

We need not **be** silent on the issue.

- (2) The base form is used in imperatives (commands).

Be good!
Come here, please.
Ring the bell.

- (3) Less commonly, the base form is used as a complement of certain verbs.

OBJECT + BASE-FORM INFINITIVE The queen made **the guests wait** in the hall.

A base-form infinitive is an infinitive minus the *to*. If an infinitive including the word *to* were substituted for the base-form infinitive in the example above, the resulting sentence would be ungrammatical.

✗ The queen made **the guests to wait** in the hall.

Present

With the sole exception of the verb *be*, the present form of all verbs, including irregular verbs, is derived directly from the base form. The main difference between the present and base forms is that the third-person singular present form adds *s* or *-es* to the base form of the verb, and the present forms are identical to the base form.

The base form of *be* is different from all other present tense forms.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
FIRST PERSON	I am	we are
SECOND PERSON	you are	you are
THIRD PERSON	he/she/it is	they are

Both the pronunciation and the spelling of the third-person singular present ending are predictable. If the base form ends in a sibilant sound (*s*, *z*, *x*, *sh*, *ch*, *tch*, or *j* (as in *judge*)), the ending is pronounced as a separate syllable rhyming with *buzz*. The ending is spelled *-es*, unless the base form already ends in *-e*, in which case only *-s* is added.

	THIRD-PERSON SINGULAR PRESENT FORM
lose	loses
freeze	freezes
beseech	beseeches
catch	catches

If the base form ends in a voiceless consonant sound other than a sibilant, the ending is pronounced /s/ and is spelled *-es*. The voiceless consonants are usually spelled with a *p*, *t*, *ck*, *k*, *f*, or *gh* (when pronounced /f/).

keep	keeps
beat	beats
seek	seeks
take	takes

4 VERB FORMS AND TENSE USAGE

Note that if the base form ends in a single consonant preceded by a stressed short vowel, the consonant is usually doubled to form the past: *permit ~ permitted, stop ~ stopped*.

If the base form ends in a pronounced vowel or in a voiced consonant sound other than /d/, the *-ed* is pronounced /d/. The voiced consonants are usually spelled with a *b, g, z, j, m, n, l, or r*.

BASE FORM	PAST FORM PRONOUNCED AS /d/
tie	tied
enjoy	enjoyed
kill	killed
care	cared

Note that if the base form ends in *-y* without a preceding vowel, the *-y* changes to *-ie* before the *-d* ending (*cry ~ cried*). Also note the spellings of the past forms of *lay* and *pay*: *laid* and *paid*, respectively.

The past forms of irregular verbs reflect older patterns of forming the past tense. These patterns have merged to such an extent that it is not practical to learn the past forms of irregular verbs on the basis of their historical patterns. Similarities exist, however, in how some irregular verbs form the past tense.

VOWEL CHANGE	ring	rang	sing	sang
VOWEL CHANGE + -d	sell	sold	tell	told
VOWEL CHANGE + -t	feel	felt	feel	felt
	keep	kept	sleep	slept
	bet	bet	put	put
NO CHANGE	let	let	put	put
			sweet	sweet
			rid	rid

Following are the past forms of the 13 most common verbs in English, all irregular.

BASE FORM	PAST FORM
be	was were
have	had
do	did
say	said (rhymes with <i>fed</i>)
make	made
go	went
take	took
come	came
see	saw
know	knew
give	gave
get	got
find	found

Infinitive

The infinitive of a verb consists of *to* + its base form. There are no exceptions—even the verb *be* is regular: *to be*.

BASE FORM	INFINITIVE
be	to be
fly	to fly
spend	to spend

Infinitives are used as complements of certain verbs.

- I would like **to meet** your friend.
- They invited us **to spend** the night.

The Passive Voice

In traditional grammar, verbs have **voice**. Voice is determined by whether the subject is the performer of the action of the verb (**active voice**) or the receiver of the action (**passive voice**). Compare the following sentences.

ACTIVE VOICE	The dog bit the man.
PASSIVE VOICE	The man was bitten by the dog.

In the active voice sentence, the subject (the dog) performs the action of biting. In the passive voice sentence, the subject (the man) does not perform the action of biting; instead, he is the receiver of the action. The *by* phrase is not necessary and is, in fact, usually not used.

The passive voice is easily recognized, because it uses a form of the helping verb *be* immediately followed by the past participle form of the main verb—a combination found only in passive voice sentences.

PRESENT TENSE PASSIVE	My elbow is hurt .
PAST TENSE PASSIVE	My elbow was hurt .
FUTURE TENSE PASSIVE	My elbow will be hurt .

The progressive tenses may be used in the passive voice, although the future progressive tense usually sounds awkward.

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSE PASSIVE	A movie is being shown .
PAST PROGRESSIVE TENSE PASSIVE	A movie was being shown .
FUTURE PROGRESSIVE TENSE PASSIVE	? A movie will be being shown .

The passive voice has two primary uses.

(1) It is used to switch attention from the subject of an active voice sentence to another part of the sentence (usually, but not always, the direct object).

ACTIVE VOICE	The authors sent the manuscript to Marisa.
PASSIVE VOICE	The manuscript was sent to Marisa.
PASSIVE VOICE	Marisa was sent the manuscript.

(2) The passive voice is used when the performer of the verb's action is not known.

This wool was spun in Italy.
The car was stolen yesterday afternoon.

VERB COMPLEMENTS

We use the term **complement** as a collective word for all the different grammatical structures required by verbs to make a grammatical sentence. **Complement** is much broader than the term **transitive**. In traditional grammar, a transitive verb must be followed by a direct or indirect object. The term **complement**, however, includes not only objects, but predicate adjectives, predicate nouns, infinitives, several types of clauses, and several types of adverbs. A verb may require one complement or more than one complement to make a grammatical sentence. Many intransitive verbs require no complement at all, for example, the intransitive verb *wept* in *John wept*.

The verb *put* with the sense “place, set” takes the double complement OBJECT + ADVERB OF PLACE, illustrated by the following sentence.

I put my keys *on the dresser*.

Most of the complement types in this book will be familiar to you, but some may require further explanation. Following is a list of special terms that you will encounter in the description of complements.

THAT-CLAUSE This is a noun clause beginning with *that*.

I thought **that dinner was good, but a little too heavy**.

PRESENT PARTICIPLE This term includes both present participles and gerunds (present participles modified by a possessive noun or pronoun).

Nothing beats **having lots of money in your wallet**. (PRESENT PARTICIPLE)
That beats **my trying to do it myself**. (GERUND)

WH-CLAUSE This is a noun clause beginning with a *wh*-word (*who, whom, whose, what, which, when, where, why, and how* (which does not actually begin with *wh*)), as well as compounds of these words (*whoever, whomever, whatever, etc.*).

Did you hear **who won the game**?
We will grow **what sells the best**.
They will drink **whatever is available**.

WH-INFINITIVE This is a noun clause beginning with a *wh*-word followed by an infinitive.

I told them **where to go**.
Dad taught us **how to tie knots**.

Complement Types

This book lists basic, or single-element, complement types, which appear in bold in the example sentences. Many of these basic complement types can be combined and used together.

Single Grammatical Element Complements

ADVERB OF TIME	The fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 .
ADVERB OF PLACE	He felt in his pockets for the key.
ADVERB OF PLACE/FROM	The refugees fled into the woods .
ADVERB OF MANNER	He reads too softly for everyone to hear .
OBJECT	I hurt my shoulder .
for/in/of/to/with/etc. OBJECT	The condemned man was pleading for his life . The problem lies with senior management .
REFLEXIVE PRONOUN	I flung myself into jazz.
PREDICATE NOUN	Her father was a famous artist .
PREDICATE ADJECTIVE	The moon was bright .
INFINITIVE	We sought to find a better solution for the problem .
THAT-CLAUSE	The police proved that the driver was lying .
WH-CLAUSE	We will soon know who will get the job . We will soon know where the new office will be .
WH-INFINITIVE	The author forgot where to put the quotation marks . I forget how to change my password .
PRESENT PARTICIPLE	I can't stand not knowing what happened .
PAST PARTICIPLE	We felt overwhelmed by the experience .
DIRECT QUOTATION	" Good morning ," she said. " We're glad you're here ."

GUIDE TO COMPLEMENTS AND PHRASAL VERBS

- 1 This meaning of *give* requires no complement.
- 2 The blank line indicates that this meaning of *give* requires a complement. Either the single complement OBJECT or the double complement INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT may be used.
- 3 The object in the example sentence is bold.
- 4 One element in a double complement is italicized to distinguish the two complements. The INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT construction may have a *for* PARAPHRASE, as shown below.
- 5 The direct object is bold, and the indirect object is bold italic (corresponding to the italic in the complement name).
- 6 A passive-voice variation is often given for an example sentence.
- 7 This use of *give out* as a phrasal verb requires no complement.
- 8 This use of *give out* as a phrasal verb requires a complement. The SEP on the blank line indicates that the phrasal verb is separable (see pages 14–15).
- 9 This use of *give out* as a phrasal verb requires a complement. The blank line without SEP indicates that the phrasal verb is inseparable (see pages 14–15).

Complement types are not identified in the Phrasal Verbs section, since virtually every complement of a phrasal verb functions as an object of the verb, whether it is an OBJECT, PRONOUN, or PRESENT PARTICIPLE. Bold and bold italic are not used in example sentences in the Phrasal Verbs section.

The Expressions section (not shown here) includes a blank line for a required complement.

COMPLEMENTS

① give *field, collapse*

The floor might give if we put that much weight on it.

give ② *host*
OBJECT

We will give ③ *the reception* in his honor.

④ INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT
for PARAPHRASE

I gave *my parents* a **surprise party**.
We gave *the seniors* a **graduation party**. ⑤

⑥ PASSIVE

I gave a **surprise party** *for my parents*.
We gave a **graduation party** *for the seniors*.

give *devote*
OBJECT + to OBJECT

A graduation party was given for the seniors.
The seniors were given a graduation party.

Marvin gave **his whole life** *to the cause of justice*.

PHRASAL VERBS

give SEP *away* *betray*

A club member gave away our secret meeting place.

give in (to) *surrender*
(to [someone/something])

After arguing for two hours, our opponents gave in. Senator Blather gave in to pressure from his colleagues.

⑦ give out *come to an end*
give out *wear out, stop operating*

The settlers' food gave out after three weeks.
After 203,000 miles, our 1979 Oldsmobile finally gave out.

⑧ give SEP out *distribute*

C.J. gave out the president's itinerary.

⑨ give out *produce*

This old furnace gives out a lot of heat.

give SEP up *stop, cease*

Mom and Dad gave up smoking at the same time.

give SEP up *surrender, yield*

Within an hour, the gunman gave up two hostages.
An hour later, he gave himself up.

bear _____ give birth to

OBJECT

PASSIVE

bear _____ have as a characteristic

OBJECT

bear _____ have as an identification

OBJECT

bear _____ behave

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN + ADVERB OF MANNER

bear _____ take care of, pay for

OBJECT

bear _____ call for, require

OBJECT

She bore **a son** in 1982.

Lois has borne **three children**.

Three children have been born to Lois.

Rory bears **a scar** on his left arm.

Sasha bears **a strong resemblance** to her mother.

All three wills bore **Uncle Leland's signature**.

He's bearing **himself with dignity**.

My parents bore **all the expenses of my college education**.

The committee bears **watching**.

bear down try hard

bear down on _____ press down on

bear off _____ turn off

bear on _____ how to do with

bear ^{SEP} out prove right

bear up survive, endure

bear with _____ be patient with

If you bear down, you'll get an "A" in the course.

Bear down on the paper you're making four copies.

Bear off the gravel road when you see a large barn.

These consultations don't bear on the matter at all.

The testimony will bear this out.

Lila bore up well in spite of the criticism.

The bridge couldn't bear up under such heavy traffic.

Please bear with us while we discuss the matter.

IRREGULAR VERBS

EXPRESSIONS

bear arms possess a weapon

bear fruit yield satisfactory results

bear _____ in mind consider, remember

bear [one's] cross endure one's troubles

bear the brunt of _____ endure the worst part of

grin and bear it endure an unpleasant surprise with good humor

A citizen may bear arms to protect himself.

The discussions will hopefully bear fruit soon.

Our representatives should bear in mind that their decisions affect millions of people.

The cancer took its toll, but Nick bore his cross bravely.

The walnut trees bore the brunt of the storm.

We got laid off, and all we can do is grin and bear it.

PRESENT

I become we become
 you become you become
 he/she/it becomes they become

• *Jackson becomes cross when he's hungry.*

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am becoming we are becoming
 you are becoming you are becoming
 he/she/it is becoming they are becoming

• *The kids are becoming tired.*

PAST

I became we became
 you became you became
 he/she/it became they became

• *The situation became a real mess.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was becoming we were becoming
 you were becoming you were becoming
 he/she/it was becoming they were becoming

• *His old jokes were becoming quite tiresome.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has become

PAST PERFECT ... had become

FUTURE ... will become

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be becoming

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have become

PAST PASSIVE

Become is never used in the passive voice.

COMPLEMENTS

become _____ *grow/come to be*

PREDICATE NOUN

The recording became a **major success**.

Alice became **chair of the department**.

PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

Robert became **quite friendly**.

The weather became **stagnant**.

WH-CLAUSE

It became **what we feared the most**.

He will become **whoever he needs to be**.

become _____ *enhance the appearance of, look good on*

OBJECT

Moonlight becomes **her**.

His sneering attitude really doesn't become **him**.

PHRASAL VERBS

become of _____ *happen to*

Whatever became of your plan to start your own business?

I don't know what has become of Mary.

EXPRESSIONS

be becoming on _____ *look good on*

This shade of blue is very becoming on you.

becoming *attractive*

Your dress is very becoming.

That is a most becoming dress you are wearing.

becoming *suitable to*

She gave a eulogy becoming the occasion of her father's funeral.

Preview from Notesale.co.
 Page 39 of 254

PRESENT

I begin we begin
 you begin you begin
 he/she/it begins they begin
 • *He always begins breakfast with coffee.*

PAST

I began we began
 you began you began
 he/she/it began they began
 • *I began to feel uneasy.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has begun

PAST PERFECT ... had begun

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am beginning we are beginning
 you are beginning you are beginning
 he/she/it is beginning they are beginning
 • *It is beginning to rain.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was beginning we were beginning
 you were beginning you were beginning
 he/she/it was beginning they were beginning
 • *We were beginning to get worried.*

FUTURE ... will begin

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be beginning

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have begun

PAST PASSIVE

— —
 — —
 it was begun they were begun
 • *Therapy was begun immediately.*

COMPLEMENTS

begin start

His meetings never begin on time.
 Meetings always begin with the reading of the minutes.
 The trouble began when Mack called Thack a fool.
 When does the parade begin?

begin — start [an activity, event, process]

OBJECT

The chairperson began **the meeting** promptly at 2 o'clock.

He began **the discussion** with a joke.

I began **to fall asleep** during the long lecture.

The orchestra began **to play**.

We only began **what absolutely had to be finished**.

They began **whatever they needed to do**.

I began **falling asleep** during the long lecture.

The orchestra began **playing**.

INFINITIVE

WH-CLAUSE

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

PHRASAL VERBS

begin by/with — start a sequence/process with

The new owners began by firing all the managers.

Career planning begins with assessing your strengths.

begin — by/with start [a process, event] by [doing something first]

Let's begin the meeting with a big thank-you to the organizers.

The song begins with a reference to fields of strawberries.

EXPRESSIONS

beginner one who is starting to learn something

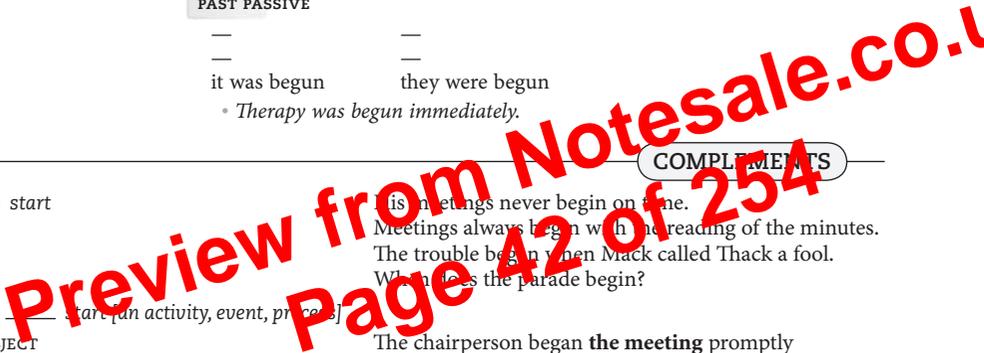
He's a beginner when it comes to woodworking.

beginner's luck luck of an inexperienced person

Winning my very first case was just beginner's luck.

to begin with first of all

To begin with, there were no eyewitnesses.



PRESENT

I behold we behold
 you behold you behold
 he/she/it beholds they behold

• *In the book, he beholds a heavenly vision.*

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am beholding we are beholding
 you are beholding you are beholding
 he/she/it is beholding they are beholding

• *The king is beholding the newborn princess.*

PAST

I beheld we beheld
 you beheld you beheld
 he/she/it beheld they beheld

• *They beheld the ancient tomb in silence.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was beholding we were beholding
 you were beholding you were beholding
 he/she/it was beholding they were beholding

• *The troops were beholding the massacre site.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has beheld

PAST PERFECT ... had beheld

FUTURE ... will behold

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be beholding

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have beheld

PAST PASSIVE

I was beheld we were beheld
 you were beheld you were beheld
 he/she/it was beheld they were beheld

• *A similar scene was beheld by the lunchtime crowd.*

COMPLEMENT

behold _____ observe, look at [OFTEN USED IN THE IMPERATIVE]
 OBJECT

Behold **our king!**

No one had ever beheld **such an amazing sight.**

The children of the village had never beheld
a half-way constructed toy before.

Preview from Notesale.co.
 Page 43 of 254

PRESENT

I beset we beset
 you beset you beset
 he/she/it besets they beset

• *Crime besets the core of many older cities.*

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am besetting we are besetting
 you are besetting you are besetting
 he/she/it is besetting they are besetting

• *The enemy fleet is besetting all of our ports.*

PAST

I beset we beset
 you beset you beset
 he/she/it beset they beset

• *Clouds of flies beset the campers.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was besetting we were besetting
 you were besetting you were besetting
 he/she/it was besetting they were besetting

• *Creditors were besetting the firm from all sides.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has beset

PAST PERFECT ... had beset

FUTURE ... will beset

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be besetting

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have beset

PAST PASSIVE

I was beset we were beset
 you were beset you were beset
 he/she/it was beset they were beset

• *They were beset by a sea of troubles.*

COMPLEMENT

beset _____ attack from all sides [OFTEN USED WITH OBJECTS]

OBJECT

His financial problems beset **him** constantly.

Her parents beset **her** in her struggle to remain drug-free.

She beset **her parents** with regular requests for money.

PASSIVE

All too often, the elderly are beset by multiple health problems.

He was beset by self-doubt.

The owl was beset by a flock of crows.

Preview from Notesale.co.
 Page 47 of 254

PRESENT

I bleed we bleed
 you bleed you bleed
 he/she/it bleeds they bleed
 • *His nose bleeds at high altitudes.*

PAST

I bled we bled
 you bled you bled
 he/she/it bled they bled
 • *His wound bled for quite some time.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has bled

PAST PERFECT ... had bled

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am bleeding we are bleeding
 you are bleeding you are bleeding
 he/she/it is bleeding they are bleeding
 • *I'm bleeding onto my shirt.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was bleeding we were bleeding
 you were bleeding you were bleeding
 he/she/it was bleeding they were bleeding
 • *The company was bleeding money.*

FUTURE ... will bleed

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be bleeding

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have bled

PAST PASSIVE

I was bled we were bled
 you were bled you were bled
 he/she/it was bled they were bled
 • *He was bled dry by the blackmailers.*

COMPLEMENTS

bleed lose blood

bleed seep, ooze

bleed lose money

bleed feel sympathy

bleed _____ draw blood/fluid from

OBJECT

bleed _____ extort money from over time

OBJECT

bleed _____ lose rapidly

OBJECT

The hands and knees were bleeding.

The cut plants bleed onto the rug.

The newspaper is bleeding onto my hands.

The cut of the industry is bleeding at an unsustainable rate.

My heart bleeds for the widow.

Her heart bleeds at her neighbor's misfortune.

Doctors used to bleed **their patients** regularly.The mechanic bled **the brake line**.Blackmailers bleed **their victims** of all their money.Newspapers are bleeding **money** at an amazing rate.

PHRASAL VERBS

bleed off _____ be printed so the image goes off the edge of [a page, sheet]

bleed off _____ remove the contents of

bleed through _____ show through [a layer]

The photo of the wolf bleeds off the page.

Irene bled off the air compressor.

The dark blue is bleeding through the coat of white paint.

EXPRESSIONS

bleed _____ dry/white drain of resources

bleed money lose money rapidly

bleed to death die from loss of blood

bleeding heart one who is exceptionally sympathetic toward the underprivileged

Legal fees will bleed you dry.

The rock star's entourage bled him white.

The entire industry is bleeding money.

If the doctors can't stop the bleeding, the boy will bleed to death.

George is a bleeding heart for the homeless.

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Page 53 of 254

PRESENT

I chide we chide
you chide you chide
he/she/it chides they chide

• *She chides me for being gullible.*

PAST

I chid we chid
you chid you chid
he/she/it chid they chid

• *The librarian gently chid the children.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has chid/chidden

PAST PERFECT ... had chid/chidden

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am chiding we are chiding
you are chiding you are chiding
he/she/it is chiding they are chiding

• *We are chiding them about their terrible coffee.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was chiding we were chiding
you were chiding you were chiding
he/she/it was chiding they were chiding

• *I was chiding him for spending all his money.*

FUTURE ... will chide

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be chiding

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have chid/chidden

PAST PASSIVE

I was chid/chidden we were chid/chidden
you were chid/chidden you were chid/chidden
he/she/it was chid/chidden they were chid/chidden

• *We were chidden for missing the beginning of the meeting.*

COMPLEMENTS

chide express disapproval/displeasure He is a bold goad who chides constantly.

chide _____ *goad, nag*

OBJECT

PASSIVE

DIRECT QUOTATION

chide _____ *goad, nag*

OBJECT + INTO PRESENT PARTICIPLE

PASSIVE

He chides about the morals of kids these days."

The many teachers chide **their students** over nothing.

I chid **the people who kept talking during the movie.**

We were chidden for expressing unpopular opinions.

"**Don't act like that,**" she chid.

"Well," the senator chid, "**we'll see about that!**"

The manager chid **the tenants into cleaning up the yard.**

He chid **me into doing something I didn't really want to do.**

We were chid **into filling out a questionnaire.**

Preview from Notesale.co.
Page 69 of 254

PRESENT

I creep we creep
 you creep you creep
 he/she/it creeps they creep

• *Time creeps by when you're bored.*

PAST

I crept we crept
 you crept you crept
 he/she/it crept they crept

• *Old age crept up on us.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has crept

PAST PERFECT ... had crept

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am creeping we are creeping
 you are creeping you are creeping
 he/she/it is creeping they are creeping

• *The fog is creeping into the hollow.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was creeping we were creeping
 you were creeping you were creeping
 he/she/it was creeping they were creeping

• *The soldiers were creeping past the guards.*

FUTURE

... will creep

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be creeping

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have crept

PAST PASSIVE

Creep is never used in the passive voice.

COMPLEMENTS

creep *move along close to the ground*

Bob crept away from his pursuer.
 The lion crept toward the antelope.

creep *move cautiously/stealthily*

We crept down the stairs.
 I crept into the kids' room, trying not to wake them.

creep *grow along a surface*

Weeds were creeping in to the flower beds.

creep *shiver from fear/cold*

The scorpion made my flesh creep.

creep _____ *advance slowly*

ADVERB OF PLACE TO/FROM

Daylight crept **in through the windows.**

Water from the clogged drain crept **across the floor.**

creep _____ *appear gradually*

ADVERB OF PLACE TO/FROM

A sense of urgency crept **through the crowd.**

PHRASAL VERBS

creep by *pass slowly*

The years crept by when Lawrence was in prison.

creep in/into _____ *enter inconspicuously*

A note of resentment crept into his voice.
 Negativity crept into his later writing.

creep up on _____ *advance slowly and imperceptibly toward*

The cat crept up on the mouse.

EXPRESSIONS

creep out of the woodwork *appear after being gone for a long time*

Well, look who's crept out of the woodwork—it's Percy!

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 Page 77 of 254

PRESENT

I cut we cut
 you cut you cut
 he/she/it cuts they cut
 • *He cuts the lawn every weekend.*

PAST

I cut we cut
 you cut you cut
 he/she/it cut they cut
 • *I cut myself shaving.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has cut

PAST PERFECT ... had cut

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am cutting we are cutting
 you are cutting you are cutting
 he/she/it is cutting they are cutting
 • *I'm cutting class today.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was cutting we were cutting
 you were cutting you were cutting
 he/she/it was cutting they were cutting
 • *We were cutting the staff by ten percent.*

FUTURE ... will cut

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be cutting

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have cut

PAST PASSIVE

I was cut we were cut
 you were cut you were cut
 he/she/it was cut they were cut
 • *Our budget was cut substantially.*

COMPLEMENTS

- cut hurt someone's feelings His criticism **really cut**.
ADVERB OF MANNER He **really** knows how to cut.
- cut _____ make an incision / separate
ADVERB OF MANNER A sharp knife **cuts easily**.
ADVERB OF MANNER He **cut** with a razor.
- cut _____ undergo an incision/separation
ADVERB OF MANNER The dried wood **cuts easily**.
- cut _____ penetrate with a sharp object
OBJECT Jill cut **her finger** on a knife.
- cut _____ sever, separate into pieces (slice, mow, pare, trim, dig, etc.)
OBJECT I cut **the cake**.
 My husband cut **the grass** this morning.
 I need to cut **my fingernails**.
 The new barber cut **my hair**.
 The backhoe cut **a trench** for a new waterline.
- cut _____ make by chopping/hacking
OBJECT We cut **a path** through the dense woods.
- cut _____ reduce the size/number of
OBJECT They will cut **my hours** after Christmas.
 We have to cut **the budget**.
 The authors had to cut **the manuscript** by a third.
- cut _____ remove [from a group]
OBJECT The coach cut **three players** from the squad.
 The director cut **five scenes** from the movie.
- cut _____ change direction suddenly
ADVERB OF PLACE TO/FROM Cut **to the right** just before the railroad tracks.
- cut _____ go directly, take a shortcut
ADVERB OF PLACE TO/FROM We can cut **across Mr. Applegate's property**.
 The highway cuts **through a national park**.
 The seniors cut **to the front of the line**.
- cut _____ dilute
OBJECT That bartender cuts **whiskey** with tap water.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
 Page 78 of 254



cut _____ break, stop

OBJECT

The storm cut **the telephone lines**.Please cut **all the noise**.He cut **the engine**.

cut _____ skip without permission

OBJECT

We cut **class** to watch the inauguration.

cut _____ record

OBJECT

She is cutting **a new album**.

cut _____ fill out and issue

OBJECT

The secretary cut **a check for \$50.23**.

cut _____ handle [USUALLY NEGATIVE]

OBJECT

I can't cut **the 45-minute drive to work** anymore.

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

Tom can't cut **being a police officer** anymore.

PHRASAL VERBS

cut across _____ transcend

The president's economic proposal cuts across party lines.

cut back reverse direction

The receiver cut back to the middle of the field.

cut SEP back shortenWe must cut back on **stir-frys** after they flower.

cut back (on) _____ reduce

The department cut back spending in **Africa**.cut SEP down chop/saw and cause to fallOur neighbors cut two elm trees **down**.

cut down (on) _____ reduce

The doctor told **Ed** to cut down on caffeine.

cut in begin operating

We **cut in** the crank six times before the motor cut in.

cut in interrupt

The **reporter cut in** before I finished my first sentence.

cut in move into a line out of turn

The motorist cut in just before his lane ended.

cut SEP in mix in

Cut in the shortening with a pastry blender.

cut in on _____ interrupt

The actress cut in on the director.

cut SEP off interrupt

The protester cut me off in mid-sentence.

cut SEP off move suddenly in front of, block

A driver cut me off at the curve.

The policeman cut the robbers off at the bridge.

cut SEP off shorten

Gerry cut off the knotty end of the board.

cut SEP off shut off

When his car overheated, the driver cut off the engine.

cut off/out stop suddenly, shut off

The water heater cuts off at 120 degrees.

cut out go away quickly

This party is boring; let's cut out.

cut SEP out eliminate

I will cut out afternoon snacks for two weeks.

cut up joke, clown, behave wildly

Ken always cuts up when the teacher leaves the room.

cut SEP up separate into sections with a sharp object

Cut the mushrooms up, and then we'll add them to the sauce.

EXPRESSIONS

cut _____ down to size humiliate

His opponent cut him down to size.

cut _____ some slack make an allowance for

He wasn't feeling well, so the boss cut him some slack.

cut _____ to the quick badly hurt the feelings of

Your nasty remarks cut me to the quick.

cut [one's] teeth on

_____ learn/do as a beginner

The journalist cut her teeth on writing obituaries.

cut SEP short

stop suddenly

The president cut the press conference short.

- REGULAR
- IRREGULAR

dream | dreams · dreamed · have dreamed
 dream | dreams · dreamt · have dreamt

dream

PRESENT

I dream we dream
 you dream you dream
 he/she/it dreams they dream
 • *He dreams of getting rich.*

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am dreaming we are dreaming
 you are dreaming you are dreaming
 he/she/it is dreaming they are dreaming
 • *If I'm dreaming, don't wake me up.*

PAST

I dreamt we dreamt
 you dreamt you dreamt
 he/she/it dreamt they dreamt
 • *I dreamt that I ate a giant marshmallow.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was dreaming we were dreaming
 you were dreaming you were dreaming
 he/she/it was dreaming they were dreaming
 • *I was dreaming that I was late to work.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has dreamt

PAST PERFECT ... had dreamt

FUTURE ... will dream

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be dreaming

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have dreamt

PAST PASSIVE

I was dreamt we were dreamt
 you were dreamt you were dreamt
 he/she/it was dreamt they were dreamt
 • *It was never even dreamt of 50 years ago.*

COMPLEMENTS

dream have thoughts and images while one sleeps

I find I was dreaming.
 We can all dream, can't we?
 I must have been dreaming.

dream about sth they

Sorry Lewis is dreaming.

dream _____ have [thoughts and images] while one sleeps
 about OBJECT

Last night I dreamt **about my grandmother**.
 Do rabbits dream **about carrots**?
 She dreamt **about Cassie and Pookie**.
 I never dream **about my childhood**.
 I dreamt **that I had gotten lost in the woods**.
 Cinderella dreamt **that she had met her prince**.
 I dreamt **about losing my job**.
 He dreamt **about their moving back home**.

THAT-CLAUSE

about PRESENT PARTICIPLE

dream _____ imagine, wish
 of OBJECT

We all dream **of a better future for our children**.
 Everyone dreams **of world peace**.
 Everyone dreams **that they will be rich and famous**.
 Cubs fans could only dream **of winning the World Series**.
 Actors always dream **of getting the big break**.

THAT-CLAUSE

of PRESENT PARTICIPLE

dream _____ consider possible/proper [ALWAYS NEGATIVE]
 of PRESENT PARTICIPLE

We wouldn't dream **of going to the party without you**.
 He would never dream **of eating meat**.

PHRASAL VERBS

dream SEP away spend [time] idly

Let's sit on the riverbank and dream away the day.

dream SEP up invent, concoct

Our board dreamt up a plan to avoid bankruptcy.
 My brother and I dream up all kinds of wacky ideas.

PRESENT

I drink we drink
 you drink you drink
 he/she/it drinks they drink
 • *John drinks white wine.*

PAST

I drank we drank
 you drank you drank
 he/she/it drank they drank
 • *I drank two cups of coffee.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has drunk

PAST PERFECT ... had drunk

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am drinking we are drinking
 you are drinking you are drinking
 he/she/it is drinking they are drinking
 • *I'm only drinking green tea these days.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was drinking we were drinking
 you were drinking you were drinking
 he/she/it was drinking they were drinking
 • *They were drinking in the hotel bar.*

FUTURE

... will drink

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE

... will be drinking

FUTURE PERFECT

... will have drunk

PAST PASSIVE

— —
 — —
 it was drunk they were drunk

• *Orange juice was always drunk at breakfast.*

COMPLEMENT

drink take a liquid in one's mouth and swallow it

drink consume alcoholic beverages

drink _____ consume [a liquid]

OBJECT

WH-CLAUSE

drink _____ cause [oneself] to be in a particular state as a result of excessive alcohol consumption

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN + into OBJECT

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN + to OBJECT

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN + PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

Is the patient able to drink?

He is drinking without any trouble now.

Don't try to drink too soon.

I am drinking again.

They never drink.

We drink only on special occasions.

I like to drink **sparkling water**.He only drinks **imported beer**.Their kids never drink **soda pop**.We will drink **what is already open**.I'll drink **whatever is on tap**.He drank **himself into oblivion**.The college students drank **themselves into a stupor**.One of my neighbors drank **himself to death**.He drank **himself stupid**.They drank **themselves blind**.I drank **myself senseless**.

PHRASAL VERBS

drink SEP **away** consume alcohol to relieve oneself of

drink SEP **down** swallow [a liquid] completely

drink SEP **in** absorb with the mind/senses

drink to _____ make a toast to

Drink up! Start/keep drinking!

drink SEP **up** consume all of [a liquid]

The lonely widower drank his troubles away.

Mother told me to drink the syrup down in one gulp.

He drinks in knowledge like a sponge.

The tourists drank in the mountain scenery.

We drank in the sights and sounds of New Year's Eve.

Let's drink to the couple's health and happiness.

I'll drink to that!

There's more wine in the cellar. Drink up!

My teenage sons drank up all the milk.

Preview from Notesale.co.
 Page 87 of 254

PRESENT

I feed we feed
 you feed you feed
 he/she/it feeds they feed
 • *He feeds the birds every day.*

PAST

I fed we fed
 you fed you fed
 he/she/it fed they fed
 • *I fed the cat two hours ago.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has fed

PAST PERFECT ... had fed

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am feeding we are feeding
 you are feeding you are feeding
 he/she/it is feeding they are feeding
 • *I'm feeding the documents into the shredder.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was feeding we were feeding
 you were feeding you were feeding
 he/she/it was feeding they were feeding
 • *They were feeding us misinformation.*

FUTURE ... will feed

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be feeding

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have fed

PAST PASSIVE

I was fed we were fed
 you were fed you were fed
 he/she/it was fed they were fed
 • *The children were fed earlier.*

COMPLEMENTS

feed eat

How often do they feed?

The birds were feeding on our plum tree.
 Lions only feed when they are hungry.

feed supply [supply materials]

The zookeeper feeds every morning and evening.
 Don't feed the dog, or the shredder will jam.

feed _____ give food to, supply materials to

OBJECT

We feed **the homeless** at a downtown shelter.
 You should only feed **the goldfish** once a week.
 Keep feeding **the boiler** until we have enough steam.

INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT
TO PARAPHRASE

Feed **me some more rope**.
 Feed **some more rope to me**.

feed _____ send [an electric current, a signal]

OBJECT

The sensor feeds **a signal** to the computer.
 The station feeds **the broadcast** to a satellite.
 The current is fed to the circuit breaker.

PASSIVE

feed _____ foster, support

OBJECT

Resentment feeds **hostility**.
 Rumors are feeding **the confusion**.
 Music feeds **the soul**.
 The mind can only be fed by education.

PASSIVE

feed _____ supply

INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT

We fed **the chickens corn**.
 The company fed **the press misleading information**.
 The director fed **the actress her lines**.
 This cable feeds **the factory its power**.
 We fed **corn to the chickens**.
 The company fed **misleading information to the press**.
 The director fed **the actress's lines to her**.
 This cable feeds **power to the factory**.

TO PARAPHRASE

feed _____ move/push [into/through an opening]

OBJECT + ADVERB OF PLACE TO/FROM

The nurse fed **the breathing tube into the patient's windpipe**.
 The tourist fed **quarters into the vending machine**.

PRESENT

I forbear	we forbear
you forbear	you forbear
he/she/it forbears	they forbear

• *He forbears from talking about his wealth.*

PAST

I forbore	we forbore
you forbore	you forbore
he/she/it forbore	they forbore

• *I forbore my usual coffee after dinner.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has forborne

PAST PERFECT ... had forborne

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am forbearing	we are forbearing
you are forbearing	you are forbearing
he/she/it is forbearing	they are forbearing

• *We are forbearing from taking any action.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was forbearing	we were forbearing
you were forbearing	you were forbearing
he/she/it was forbearing	they were forbearing

• *The critics were forbearing in their comments.*

FUTURE

... will forbear

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be forbearing

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have forborne

PAST PASSIVE

—	—
—	—
it was forborne	they were forborne

• *A scathing reply was forborne with difficulty.*

COMPLEMENTS

forbear *be patient/tolerant*

We know there have been some problems
but please forbear.

To forbear in the face of provocation is admirable.

Where someone *you* might seek revenge, he forbears.

forbear *— remain (from), resist*

OBJECT

I will forbear **my uncle's company** when he is in town.

She forbears **mention of his name** around her ex-boyfriend.

PASSIVE

An exercise of presidential power couldn't be forborne
any longer.

(from) PRESENT PARTICIPLE

We are forbearing **(from) saying anything about the accident.**

I will forbear **(from) replying to your rude comments.**

Only a saint would forbear **(from) getting angry.**

Preview from Notesale.co.
Page 101 of 254

PRESENT

I forbid we forbid
 you forbid you forbid
 he/she/it forbids they forbid
 • *The law forbids the sale of handguns.*

PAST

I forbade we forbade
 you forbade you forbade
 he/she/it forbade they forbade
 • *The police forbade parking on the street.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has forbidden

PAST PERFECT ... had forbidden

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am forbidding we are forbidding
 you are forbidding you are forbidding
 he/she/it is forbidding they are forbidding
 • *Sally's mother is forbidding any more parties.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was forbidding we were forbidding
 you were forbidding you were forbidding
 he/she/it was forbidding they were forbidding
 • *The company was forbidding smoking in the area.*

FUTURE ... will forbid

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be forbidding

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have forbidden

PAST PASSIVE

I was forbidden we were forbidden
 you were forbidden you were forbidden
 he/she/it was forbidden they were forbidden
 • *The lawyers were forbidden to talk to the press.*

COMPLEMENTS

forbid _____ prohibit, not allow

OBJECT

The law forbids **the sale of alcohol to minors**.
 Most religions forbid **marriage between close relatives**.
 My parents forbid **books at the dinner table**.
 The doctor forbids **further explanation**.

PASSIVE

Campfires are forbidden in this area.

OBJECT + INFINITIVE

I forbid **you to talk to me like that**.
 Some churches forbid **priests to marry**.
 Jane's mother forbade **her to go to the party**.

PASSIVE

I was forbidden **to take pictures there**.

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

The new law forbids **smoking in public places**.
 The rules of soccer forbid **tripping an opponent**.
 My mother forbids **watching TV before finishing homework**.
 Space forbids **covering all the issues**.

PASSIVE

Using a cell phone in class is strictly forbidden.

EXPRESSIONS

God/Heaven forbid! I hope it will not happen.

God forbid that Mark should fall asleep and have an accident.
 "Your ex-boyfriend is coming to the party."
 "Heaven forbid!"

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
 Page 102 of 254

PRESENT

I forsake we forsake
 you forsake you forsake
 he/she/it forsakes they forsake

• *The movie forsakes any semblance of plot.*

PAST

I forsook we forsook
 you forsook you forsook
 he/she/it forsook they forsook

• *They forsook allegiance to their country.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has forsaken

PAST PERFECT ... had forsaken

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am forsaking we are forsaking
 you are forsaking you are forsaking
 he/she/it is forsaking they are forsaking

• *You are forsaking some of your oldest friends.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was forsaking we were forsaking
 you were forsaking you were forsaking
 he/she/it was forsaking they were forsaking

• *The professors were forsaking their teaching duties.*

FUTURE

... will forsake

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be forsaking

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have forsaken

PAST PASSIVE

I was forsaken we were forsaken
 you were forsaken you were forsaken
 he/she/it was forsaken they were forsaken

• *This principle was forsaken in their greed for power.*

COMPLEMENTS

forsake _____ abandon, desert

OBJECT

The bridegroom forsook all of his old habits.

He would never forsake Susan.

“And forsaking all others, I will be faithful...” [WEDDING VOW]

PASSIVE

All of his principles were forsaken.

forsake _____ renounce, give up

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

He forsook **smoking and drinking**.

I will forsake **eating meat** for a month.

John will never forsake **riding his motorcycle**.

Because of my knee injury I have forsaken **playing tennis**.

Preview from Notesale.co.
 Page 107 of 254

give _____ perform

OBJECT

The symphony gave **a concert** last night.
The band gave **a free concert** to benefit AIDS victims.

give _____ cause to have

INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT

Loud music gives **me a headache**.

give _____ pay

OBJECT

Michelle gave **\$125** for her outfit.

give _____ administer

INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT

Freddie gave **the guard a punch in the mouth**.
Darla's mom gave **her some cough syrup**.
Darla's mom gave **some cough syrup to her**.

TO PARAPHRASE

give _____ cause

OBJECT + INFINITIVE

You gave **me to understand that you would support us**.
He gave **Jackson to believe that the problem was solved**.

give _____ sentence to

INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT

The judge gave **the criminal 30 days in jail**.

give _____ sacrifice

OBJECT + for OBJECT

"It is sweet and right to give your life **for your country**."
[HORACE]

give _____ devote

OBJECT + to OBJECT

Martin gave **his whole life to the cause of justice**.give SEP _____ away, betray

The spy gave away our **secret meeting place**.

give SEP _____ back return

You'll have to give the engagement ring back.

give in (to _____) surrender
(to [someone/something])

After arguing for two hours, our opponents gave in.
Senator Blather gave in to pressure from his colleagues.

give it to _____ scold, punish

My boss really gave it to me when I walked in late.

give off _____ release, emit

The compost is giving off an earthy smell.
The laptop gives off a lot of heat.

give out come to an end

The settlers' food gave out after three weeks.

give out wear out, stop operating

After 203,000 miles, our 1979 Oldsmobile finally gave out.

give SEP _____ out distribute

C.J. gave out the president's itinerary.

give SEP _____ out make known

Don't give out your cell phone number.

give out _____ produce

This old furnace gives out a lot of heat.

give SEP _____ up stop, cease

Mom and Dad gave up smoking at the same time.

give SEP _____ up surrender, yield

Within an hour, the gunman gave up two hostages.
An hour later, he gave himself up.

give up (on _____) admit failure
(with [something])

Sheila finally gave up on the crossword puzzle.
I tried four times to reach Lisa, then gave up.

give up (on _____) stop trying ((to do))

Ainsley finally gave up on trying to convince Sam.

PHRASAL VERBS

PRESENT

I have we have
 you have you have
 he/she/it has they have
 • *November only has 30 days.*

PAST

I had we had
 you had you had
 he/she/it had they had
 • *We had a really great time.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has had

PAST PERFECT ... had had

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am having we are having
 you are having you are having
 he/she/it is having they are having
 • *I'm having some people over.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was having we were having
 you were having you were having
 he/she/it was having they were having
 • *We were having a lot of problems then.*

FUTURE ... will have

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be having

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have had

PAST PASSIVE

Have is not used in the passive voice except in idiomatic expressions.

SCHEMATIC SENTENCES

NOTE: *Have* is also used as a helping verb to form the perfect tense.
have + PAST PARTICIPLE She has read all **of** Jane Austen's novels.

have _____ possess, own, contain, include
OBJECT Do you have **a car**?
 I have **enough food** for everyone.
 Ted has a **interesting** news item for us.
 Do you have **a minute**?
 We have **an office in Tokyo**.
 Does the meeting room have **a projection screen**?
 The department store has **mattresses on sale**.
 A week has **seven days**.
 The knitters' club has **525 members**.

have _____ be characterized by
OBJECT She has **red hair**.
 He has **a quick temper**.
 My car has **a tendency to stall at stop signs**.

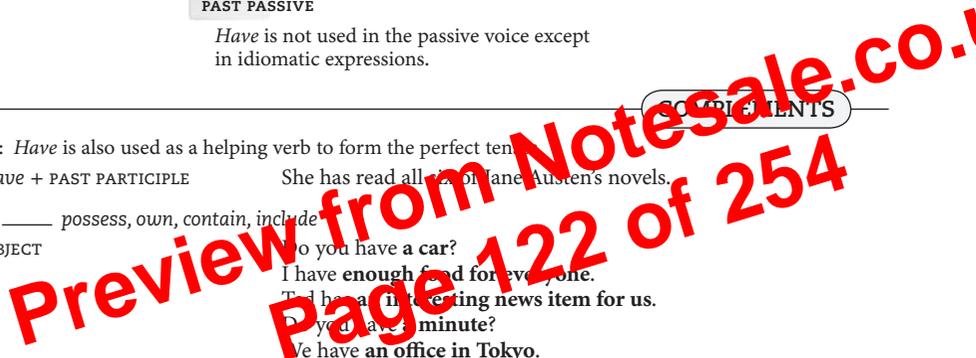
have _____ must
INFINITIVE I have **to be at the office by 8 o'clock**.
 We have **to stop for gas at the next exit**.
 You will have **to make up your minds soon**.

NOTE: When the information in the infinitive is clear from context, *have + INFINITIVE* is often contracted to *have + to*. For example, *Do you have to go now?* may be contracted to *Do you have to?* *Have to* is sometimes pronounced /hafta/.

have _____ cause [to do]
OBJECT + BASE-FORM INFINITIVE I had **the kids put away their toys**.
 He had **me reprint the document**.
 We will have **the builder modify the deck**.

OBJECT + PRESENT PARTICIPLE He had **his crew working on the addition**.
 The comedian really had **us laughing**.
 The coach had **the team running wind sprints**.

OBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE I had **my watch repaired**.
 Aunt Jenny had **her hip replaced** this fall.
 They had **the wedding reception catered**.



- REGULAR
- IRREGULAR

hew | hews · hewed · have hewed
 hew | hews · hewed · have hewn

hew

PRESENT

I hew	we hew
you hew	you hew
he/she/it hews	they hew

• *The gardener hews the hedges back too far.*

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am hewing	we are hewing
you are hewing	you are hewing
he/she/it is hewing	they are hewing

• *We are hewing wood to make the fence posts.*

PAST

I hewed	we hewed
you hewed	you hewed
he/she/it hewed	they hewed

• *Settlers hewed a clearing in the woods.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was hewing	we were hewing
you were hewing	you were hewing
he/she/it was hewing	they were hewing

• *The farmers were all hewing their winter firewood.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has hewn

PAST PERFECT ... had hewn

FUTURE ... will hew

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be hewing

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have hewn

PAST PASSIVE

—	—
—	—
it was hewn	they were hewn

• *The stools were hewn out of solid pieces of wood.*

COMPLEMENTS

hew ____ chop off / cut down / hack through with a sharp tool
 [OFTEN WITH down]

OBJECT Crews hewed down hundreds of trees for the new roadway.
 Have you hewn all the branches you need?

PASSIVE The saplings along the path had all been hewn and stacked.

hew ____ make/shape by cutting/chopping

OBJECT We hewed a narrow trail along the side of the mountain.
 The initial attackers had hewn an opening in the enemy line.

PASSIVE A path had been hewn through the jungle.
 The totem pole was hewn from cedar.

hew ____ adhere/conform strictly

to OBJECT Candidates must hew to the party line.
 Most religions demand that you hew to certain forms of behavior.
 Many artists do not hew to traditional forms.

EXPRESSIONS

rough-hewn with a rough surface/quality

I like the rough-hewn furniture in the camp dining hall.

These rough-hewn alphabets are from the 19th century.

rough-hewn unrefined

My neighbors are rough-hewn in appearance and speech.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 124 of 254

PRESENT

I hit we hit
 you hit you hit
 he/she/it hits they hit
 • *He always hits his target.*

PAST

I hit we hit
 you hit you hit
 he/she/it hit they hit
 • *The storm hit us pretty hard.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has hit

PAST PERFECT ... had hit

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am hitting we are hitting
 you are hitting you are hitting
 he/she/it is hitting they are hitting
 • *I'm hitting a lot of resistance.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was hitting we were hitting
 you were hitting you were hitting
 he/she/it was hitting they were hitting
 • *Prices were hitting all-time highs.*

FUTURE ... will hit

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be hitting

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have hit

PAST PASSIVE

I was hit we were hit
 you were hit you were hit
 he/she/it was hit they were hit
 • *Our car was hit by a pickup truck.*

COMPLEMENTS

hit *deliver a blow/setback*
 hit _____ *strike, receive a blow to*
 OBJECT

Depression can hit at any time.
 The storm will hit sometime tomorrow morning.
 The shells and bombs were hitting everywhere.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
 Page 126 of 254

hit _____ *hit the ball with the pitch sharply.*
 hit **the target** with the first shot.
 The bullet hit **him** in the left shoulder.
 Our oak tree was hit by lightning.

PASSIVE

hit _____ *cause to suffer, distress*
 OBJECT

A terrible drought has hit **the entire Midwest**.
 A sharp sell-off hit **the market** today.

hit _____ *activate, turn on/off*
 OBJECT

He hit **the brakes** in a panic.
 Hit **the light switch**, will you?
 They always want to hit **the panic button** right away.

hit _____ *reach [a level/goal]*
 OBJECT

Do you think oil will hit **\$100 a barrel**?
 Sales could hit **our goal of 2,000 units** this week.
 A new record was hit on Wall Street today.

PASSIVE

hit _____ *arrive/appear at*
 OBJECT

We should hit **Kansas City** around noon.
 The tourists hit **all the souvenir shops**.

hit _____ *encounter*
 OBJECT

The pilot hit **a headwind** 120 miles from Singapore.
 The research was going well, then we hit **a snag**.

hit _____ *become clear to*
 OBJECT

The smell of garlic hit **me** as soon as I entered the house.
 The solution hit **Johanna** right after lunch.

PHRASAL VERBS

hit on/upon _____ *discover*

She hit upon the idea of extending Medicare to people 55 and over.

PRESENT

I lie	we lie
you lie	you lie
he/she/it lies	they lie

• *The responsibility lies with all of us.*

PAST

I lay	we lay
you lay	you lay
he/she/it lay	they lay

• *The ship lay at anchor for a week.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has lain

PAST PERFECT ... had lain

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am lying	we are lying
you are lying	you are lying
he/she/it is lying	they are lying

• *The cat is lying asleep on the couch.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was lying	we were lying
you were lying	you were lying
he/she/it was lying	they were lying

• *The book was lying on your desk.*

FUTURE ... will lie

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be lying

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have lain

PAST PASSIVE

Lie is never used in the passive voice.

NOTE: The irregular verb *lie* is presented here. The regular verb *lie* (*lie* | *lies* · *lied* · *have lied*) means “say something that isn’t true”; it may be used without an object (*The suspect is lying*) or with a THAT-CLAUSE (*She lied that her husband was home all evening*).

COMPLETE LISTS

NOTE: The verbs *lie* and *lay* are often confused in part because the past tense form of *lie* (*lay*) is the same as the present tense form of *lay*.

INFINITIVE	PRESENT	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE	BASIC MEANING
lie	lie	lay	have lain	“be in a horizontal position”
lay	lay	laid	have laid	“put in a horizontal position”

The two verbs are historically related in a odd way: *to lay* means “to cause something to *lie*.” In other words, *lay* always requires a direct object, while *lie* is never used with a direct object.

lie *be buried*

Here lie the bones of the city’s founder.

lie _____ *be located*

ADVERB OF PLACE

The report is lying **right in front of you**.

The town lies **in the Thames valley**.

His few hairs lay **across his bald head**.

The ocean lies **to the west**.

lie _____ *be/stay in a horizontal position*

PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

The ocean lay **flat** as far as we could see.

The tablecloth lay **perfectly smooth**.

lie _____ *be/stay in a certain state/condition*

PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

The cat lay **motionless**, watching the bird.

The town lay **helpless** in front of the invading army.

The nurse told him to lie **still** while she examined him.

The paintings had lain **hidden** in a barn for 50 years.

lie _____ *be, exist*

in OBJECT

with OBJECT

The confusion lies **in our conflicting goals**.

The problem lies **with senior management**.

lie _____ *affect*

on OBJECT

The wrongful conviction lies heavily **on the prosecutors**.

His extramarital affair lies heavily **on his conscience**.

PHRASAL VERBS

lie **ahead/around/back/behind/below/down/etc.** *be/rest in a specified position*

She lay back and relaxed in the afternoon sun.
I’ll lie down for an hour.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 141 of 254

PRESENT

I lose we lose
 you lose you lose
 he/she/it loses they lose
 • *My team always loses.*

PAST

I lost we lost
 you lost you lost
 he/she/it lost they lost
 • *I lost my glasses again.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has lost

PAST PERFECT ... had lost

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am losing we are losing
 you are losing you are losing
 he/she/it is losing they are losing
 • *I am losing patience with them.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was losing we were losing
 you were losing you were losing
 he/she/it was losing they were losing
 • *We were losing money on every transaction.*

FUTURE ... will lose

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be losing

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have lost

PAST PASSIVE

I was lost we were lost
 you were lost you were lost
 he/she/it was lost they were lost

• *The battle was lost in the first few minutes.*

COMPLEMENTS

lose not win, be defeated

The team has **never** lost this season.

The longer you gamble, the more certain you are to lose.

The Patriots lost by 14 points.

lose _____ not win, be defeated in

OBJECT

No person has **ever** lost a **battle**—except the last one.You can win a battle, but still lose **the war**.I lost **my bet** with Sam.

lose _____ be deprived of

OBJECT

We lost **some dear friends** in the war.He has lost **the use of his left hand**.The senator has lost **their support**.

lose _____ misplace, be unable to find

OBJECT

I lost **the key to my desk**.The guide lost **his way** in the woods.I lost **my place in the book**.

The mountain climbers were lost in the avalanche.

PASSIVE

lose _____ fail to keep/maintain

OBJECT

The cat is losing **its hair**.My watch is losing **time**.The sink has been losing **water** for days.The boat was losing **speed**.I lost **control of the motorcycle**.

lose _____ get rid of

OBJECT

I finally lost **some weight**.

lose _____ fail to make use of

OBJECT

The company lost a **great opportunity to expand**.Don't lose **any time** getting to the bookstore.

lose _____ cause to be deprived of

INDIRECT OBJECT + OBJECT

His position on immigration lost **him a lot of votes**.

PHRASAL VERBS

lose out (to _____) be unsuccessful
 [in a competition (with [someone])]

I applied for the job, but I lost out
 to a younger applicant.

Preview from Notesale.co.
 Page 143 of 254

PRESENT

I put we put
you put you put
he/she/it puts they put

• *He always puts his car in the garage.*

PAST

I put we put
you put you put
he/she/it put they put

• *I put the package on his desk.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has put

PAST PERFECT ... had put

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am putting we are putting
you are putting you are putting
he/she/it is putting they are putting

• *I am putting the dishes into the dishwasher.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was putting we were putting
you were putting you were putting
he/she/it was putting they were putting

• *The kids were putting peanut butter on their fruit.*

FUTURE ... will put

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be putting

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have put

PAST PASSIVE

I was put we were put
you were put you were put
he/she/it was put they were put

• *The documents were put into the safe.*

COMPLEMENTS

put _____ place, set

OBJECT + ADVERB OF PLACE

I always put **my keys** *on the table*.
We put **the new rug** *in the living room*.
The guards put **a barricade** *across the road*.
She put **her hand** *under the kitten* to lift it.
Tony put **her knitting aside** and picked up a book.
The clerk put **a price of \$49.99** *on the dress*.
The coach put **pressure** *on the team*.
The picture was put **above** *the fireplace*.

PASSIVE

put _____ insert

OBJECT + ADVERB OF PLACE TO/FROM

I put **the key** *into the lock* and turned it.
We put **the note** *under his door*.
The telephone company will put **a new satellite** *into orbit*.
You will need to put **your car** *into the garage*.
The suitcases were put **into** *the closet*.

PASSIVE

put _____ cause to be in a certain condition/state

OBJECT + ADVERB OF MANNER

His lectures put **me** *to sleep* sometimes.
The CEO's decision put **3,000 people** *out of work*.
Don't put **yourself** *in danger*.
He always puts **me** *in a good mood*.
I'd like to put **the old lawn mower** *to good use*.

put _____ express, say

OBJECT + ADVERB OF MANNER

I thought he put **it** *very well*.
You will need to put **your ideas** *in a simpler form*.
I put **my comments** *in writing*.

PASSIVE

His complaints were put **rather rudely**,
I thought.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 154 of 254

PRESENT

I quit we quit
 you quit you quit
 he/she/it quits they quit

• *He usually quits around 5 o'clock.*

PAST

I quit we quit
 you quit you quit
 he/she/it quit they quit

• *I quit my job last year.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has quit

PAST PERFECT ... had quit

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am quitting we are quitting
 you are quitting you are quitting
 he/she/it is quitting they are quitting

• *I am quitting next week.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was quitting we were quitting
 you were quitting you were quitting
 he/she/it was quitting they were quitting

• *He was quitting because he needed a full-time job.*

FUTURE ... will quit

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be quitting

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have quit

PAST PASSIVE

Quit is never used in the passive voice.

COMPLEMENTS

quit stop functioning

My cell phone just quit.
 The engine quits if you give it too much gas.
 His poor old bear finally quit.

quit stop working at the end of a work period

When do they quit for the day?
 I am getting tired. How soon can we quit?
 We can't quit until the next shift comes in.

quit resign from a job

That's a good question.
 How many people quit in the course of a month?
 We are moving to a new town, so I will have to quit.

quit admit defeat, give up

You beat me again. I quit.
 No matter how bad things look, we will never quit.
 They quit before the game was half over.

quit _____ voluntarily stop doing [a job, school, activity]

OBJECT

I am going to quit **my job** at the end of the year.
 Tom quit **the police force** and went to law school.
 Mike quit **college** to join the Marines.
 He quit **the team** because he injured his knee.

WH-CLAUSE

You need to quit **what you are doing** and get a better job.
 Quit **whatever you are doing** and listen to this!

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

I have to quit **smoking so much**.
 The company is going to quit **paying overtime**.
 He can't quit **worrying about what is going to happen**.

quit _____ leave, move away from

OBJECT

They quit **the suburbs** and moved into the city.

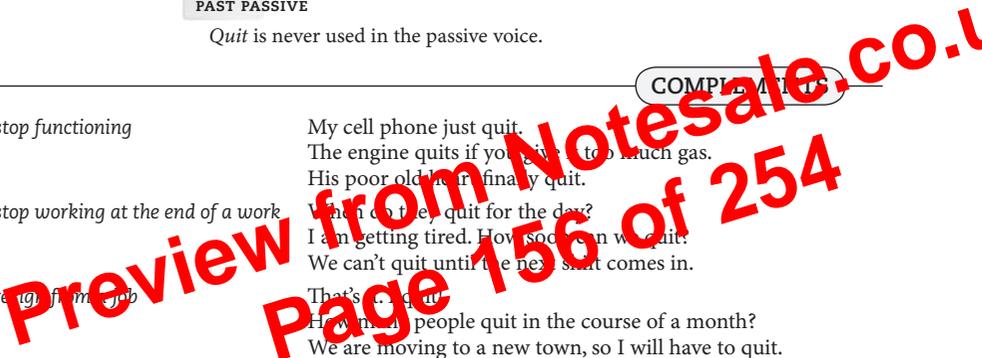
PHRASAL VERBS

quit on _____ leave one's job without warning [someone]

The carpenters quit on us in the middle of the renovation.

quit on _____ stop functioning while [someone] is using it

The lawn mower quits on me when I get into the tall grass.
 The furnace quit on us again.



read _____ learn from printed/on-screen material

THAT-CLAUSE

I read **that the company may be up for sale**.
The coach read **that we are favored to win**.
We read **that the parade may be cancelled**.

read _____ learn/interpret the meaning of

OBJECT

I couldn't read **her face** at all.
He is very good at reading **people's body language**.
Economists don't always read **inflationary signals** correctly.
Diplomatic experts read **the implications of every government action**.

OBJECT + AS OBJECT

I read **his note as an apology**.
Everyone read **his press release as an announcement of his candidacy**.

read _____ measure and show

OBJECT

The speedometer reads **55 miles per hour**.
The thermometer reads **32 degrees Celsius**.

read _____ state

DIRECT QUOTATION

The sign reads, "**No shirt, no tank top, no service**."

read _____ **in/into** infer [additional ideas/messages] from reading

What did you read **into** Senator Blather's remarks?

read SEP **off** read about in a list

The teacher read **off** the names of students who had **one** award.

read SEP **over/through** read completely

Would you read **over** my paper before I turn it in?

read up on _____ study/learn by reading

We have to read up on the current drug laws before the conference next week.

PHRASAL VERBS

EXPRESSIONS

read **between the lines** understand the intended but not explicit meaning of something said/written

She is good at reading **between the lines** of politicians' speeches.

read **lips** determine the words that someone is saying by watching him/her speak

When talking to someone who reads lips, you should talk normally.

Read **my lips**. Believe what I am about to tell you.

"Read my lips: No new taxes." [PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH]

read [someone] **his/her rights** state [someone's] legal rights to [someone who has been arrested]

The arresting officer read the suspect his rights.

read [someone] **like a book** understand [someone] well

His calm manner doesn't fool me; I can read him like a book.

read [someone] **the riot act** scold severely

When Ed came home late, his father read him the riot act.

read [someone's] **mind/thoughts** understand what [someone] is thinking

How did you know I wanted pizza for dinner?
You must have read my mind.

PRESENT

I see we see
 you see you see
 he/she/it sees they see

• *He sees a physical therapist once a week.*

PAST

I saw we saw
 you saw you saw
 he/she/it saw they saw

• *I saw Marian yesterday.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has seen

PAST PERFECT ... had seen

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am seeing we are seeing
 you are seeing you are seeing
 he/she/it is seeing they are seeing

• *I am seeing them at 10 o'clock.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was seeing we were seeing
 you were seeing you were seeing
 he/she/it was seeing they were seeing

• *We were seeing some friends last night.*

FUTURE ... will see

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be seeing

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have seen

PAST PASSIVE

I was seen we were seen
 you were seen you were seen
 he/she/it was seen they were seen

• *The suspect was last seen fleeing the crime scene.*

COMPLEMENT

see use the sense of sight

May I see it anymore?

You won't be able to see them on TV.

see understand [something previously said]

Oh, I see! [USUALLY SPOKEN EMPHATICALLY]

see acknowledge [something previously said]

I see. [USUALLY SPOKEN IN A LEVEL OR FALLING TONE]

see _____ observe with one's eyes

OBJECT

I saw **Tom** at the grocery store.

We saw **the documentary** on TV last night.

What do you see?

The star is best seen through a high-powered telescope.

Sam saw **the wind rip the roof off the house**.

Nobody saw **the suspect break into the house**.

We saw **Charles walking to school**.

I'm sorry. I didn't see **you standing there**.

Mary was seen **talking to Brett**.

Someone must have seen **the car stolen**.

We saw **the bridge swept away in the flood**.

I see **that you bought a new car**.

We saw in the paper **that your son is getting married**.

You bought a new car, I see.

I saw **what they are making for dinner**.

Did anybody see **where the kids went**?

PASSIVE

OBJECT + BASE-FORM INFINITIVE

The star is best seen through a high-powered telescope.

Sam saw **the wind rip the roof off the house**.

Nobody saw **the suspect break into the house**.

We saw **Charles walking to school**.

I'm sorry. I didn't see **you standing there**.

Mary was seen **talking to Brett**.

Someone must have seen **the car stolen**.

We saw **the bridge swept away in the flood**.

I see **that you bought a new car**.

We saw in the paper **that your son is getting married**.

You bought a new car, I see.

I saw **what they are making for dinner**.

Did anybody see **where the kids went**?

OBJECT + PRESENT PARTICIPLE

PASSIVE

OBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE

THAT-CLAUSE

EMPHATIC PARAPHRASE

WH-CLAUSE

see _____ understand

OBJECT

I see **your point**.

We all see **the attractions of living in a big city**.

Nobody saw **the magnitude of the risk**.

He is widely seen **to be qualified**.

The judge was seen **to favor the prosecution**.

OBJECT + INFINITIVE

[USED ONLY IN THE PASSIVE]

I see **that we are in big trouble**.

Our lawyer saw **that they were on shaky legal ground**.

I see **what we should do**.

No one saw **how risky the plan was**.

THAT-CLAUSE

WH-CLAUSE

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 168 of 254



PRESENT

I send we send
 you send you send
 he/she/it sends they send

• *The firm sends letters by registered mail.*

PAST

I sent we sent
 you sent you sent
 he/she/it sent they sent

• *They sent us a nice note.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has sent

PAST PERFECT ... had sent

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am sending we are sending
 you are sending you are sending
 he/she/it is sending they are sending

• *I am sending you an e-mail.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was sending we were sending
 you were sending you were sending
 he/she/it was sending they were sending

• *She was sending her children to a private school.*

FUTURE ... will send

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be sending

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have sent

PAST PASSIVE

I was sent we were sent
 you were sent you were sent
 he/she/it was sent they were sent

• *The letter was sent to the wrong address.*

COMPLEMENTS

send _____ mail, dispatch
 OBJECT

They forgot to send the letter.
 We will send a card to thank them up.

send _____ + to + place + to/ + from
 OBJECT + ADVERB OF PLACE TO/FROM

We sent **our luggage on ahead**.
 I sent **the children to bed** early.
 The wizard sent **Dorothy back to Kansas**.
 The accident sent **a cloud of dust into the air**.
 The package was sent **to the wrong office**.

PASSIVE
 INDIRECT OBJECT + DIRECT OBJECT

Send **me your ideas**.
 We sent **them a wedding present**.
 Send **your ideas to me**.
 We sent **a wedding present to them**.

to PARAPHRASE

PHRASAL VERBS

send SEP away/back/by/down/in/out/over/etc. cause to go in a specified direction

send (away/back/down/off/out/up) for _____ summon, request

The publisher sent my manuscript back unread.
 You may send the ambassador in now.
 Send for the school nurse immediately.
 Abby sent away for extra copies of the report.
 Let's send out for pizza.

send SEP in submit

Please send your application in by December 31.
 The coach sent Hopkins in for Busam.

send _____ in for put [someone] into a contest as a replacement for

send SEP off mail

We sent off a present to our granddaughter.
 Send the children off so that we can talk privately.

send SEP off cause to go away

The town sent the soldiers off with a parade.

send SEP off say farewell to [someone leaving on a trip]

send SEP out issue, distribute

The company sent a press release out this morning.

send _____ out for cause [someone] to go on an errand to get

I sent Billie out for some more ice cream.

send SEP up/down cause to go up/down

Good economic news sent the stock market up.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 172 of 254

PRESENT

I shrink we shrink
 you shrink you shrink
 he/she/it shrinks they shrink

• *Wool shrinks if washed in hot water.*

PAST

I shrank we shrank
 you shrank you shrank
 he/she/it shrank they shrank

• *The architect shrank the house by a third.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has shrunk

PAST PERFECT ... had shrunk

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am shrinking we are shrinking
 you are shrinking you are shrinking
 he/she/it is shrinking they are shrinking

• *Our margin of error is shrinking.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was shrinking we were shrinking
 you were shrinking you were shrinking
 he/she/it was shrinking they were shrinking

• *The laundry was always shrinking my shirts.*

FUTURE ... will shrink

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be shrinking

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have shrunk

PAST PASSIVE

I was shrunk we were shrunk
 you were shrunk you were shrunk
 he/she/it was shrunk they were shrunk

• *The deficit was shrunk significantly in the third quarter.*

shrink *become smaller*

Hot metal **shrinks** as it cools.
 Our budget is **shrinking** by 10% a minute.
 Average take-home pay has **shrunk** over the last five years.
 Arctic sea ice is **shrinking** more every summer.
 My pants have **shrunk** a bit, thanks to my diet.

shrink _____ *cause to become smaller*

OBJECT

He shrank **the wool sweaters** by using water that was too hot.

We waterproofed the wet barrels by shrinking **them** in the sun.

We are trying to shrink **our inventory of unsold goods**.

Our profits have been shrunk by rising costs.

PASSIVE

shrink _____ *try to avoid*

from OBJECT

Most actors don't shrink **from the limelight**.

The president does not shrink **from his role as commander-in-chief**.

Reggie won't shrink **from telling the truth on the witness stand**.

Scientists don't shrink **from examining all the data**.

from PRESENT PARTICIPLE

COMPLEMENTS

PHRASAL VERBS

shrink away/back (from _____)

draw back (from [someone/something]), as in fear

The children shrank away from the homeless man.

The cats shrank back at the sight of the dogs.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
 Page 185 of 254

PRESENT

I sink we sink
 you sink you sink
 he/she/it sinks they sink

• *Productivity sinks in the summer.*

PAST

I sank we sank
 you sank you sank
 he/she/it sank they sank

• *The stock market sank again today.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has sunk

PAST PERFECT ... had sunk

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am sinking we are sinking
 you are sinking you are sinking
 he/she/it is sinking they are sinking

• *Oil production is gradually sinking.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was sinking we were sinking
 you were sinking you were sinking
 he/she/it was sinking they were sinking

• *Our spirits were sinking by the minute.*

FUTURE ... will sink

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be sinking

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have sunk

PAST PASSIVE

I was sunk we were sunk
 you were sunk you were sunk
 he/she/it was sunk they were sunk

• *The boat was sunk in 50 feet of water.*

COMPLEMENTS

sink go below the surface

The ship sank in less than an hour.
 My boots were sinking in the soft mud.
 The wheels sank into the snow drift.

sink go down gradually

The hot air balloon was sinking to the earth.
 Tired and hungry, the travelers sank to their knees.
 The sun was sinking in the west.

sink become weaker

The temperature sank as night fell.
 Senator Blather's poll numbers were steadily sinking.
 The value of our portfolio has sunk by 20%.

sink _____ cause to go below the surface

My heart sank when I heard the bad news.
 The patient in Room 413 is sinking rapidly, Doctor.

OBJECT

An explosion in the engine room sank **the fishing boat**.

PASSIVE

I sank **a shovel** into the wet ground.

OBJECT + ADVERB OF PLACE TO/FROM

The barges were sunk by the storm.

PASSIVE

We sank **the screws into the wood**.

sink _____ go gradually [into a certain state/condition]

The dog sank **its teeth into my leg**.

into OBJECT

The steel supports were sunk **in five feet of concrete**.

The family sank **into poverty**.

The once-proud company sank **into oblivion**.

His widow and orphans sank **into despair**.

sink _____ ruin

OBJECT

These awful rumors could sink **the company**.

The defeat sank **all our hopes for the championship**.

PASSIVE

The plans for expansion were sunk by the economic downturn.

PHRASAL VERBS

sink back lean back and relax

After work, I poured a drink and sank back on the sofa.

sink in be understood

Has Trina's desperate situation sunk in yet?

The teacher's explanation will sink in eventually.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 188 of 254

PRESENT

I sit we sit
you sit you sit
he/she/it sits they sit

• *The cat always sits by the window.*

PAST

I sat we sat
you sat you sat
he/she/it sat they sat

• *We sat on a park bench in the sun.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has sat

PAST PERFECT ... had sat

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am sitting we are sitting
you are sitting you are sitting
he/she/it is sitting they are sitting

• *I'm just sitting here, waiting for somebody.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was sitting we were sitting
you were sitting you were sitting
he/she/it was sitting they were sitting

• *We were sitting by the fireplace.*

FUTURE ... will sit

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be sitting

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have sat

PAST PASSIVE

Sit is rarely used in the passive voice.

COMPLEMENTS

sit *be seated*

Never stand when you can sit.

The plane can't take off until you sit and fasten your seat belt.

I can't sit very long or else my legs start to hurt.

We trained the dog to sit on command.

sit *be in session, meet*

[OF A GOVERNMENTAL BODY]

At law, the Supreme Court sits on the first Monday in October.

The budget committee is sitting this afternoon.

The state legislature does not normally sit during the summer.

sit _____ *be seated/located*

ADVERB OF PLACE

I sat **next to him** at dinner.

The flock of birds sat **on a telephone wire**.

We are sitting **on the runway**, waiting to take off.

The statue sits **in the center of the town square**.

When I got to the office, a new computer was sitting **on my desk**.

My briefcase was sitting **by the chair**, right where I had left it.

sit _____ *have enough seats for*

OBJECT

Our dining room table sits **eight**.

PHRASAL VERBS

sit **around** *spend time idly*

We're just sitting around listening to music.

sit **back** *relax*

We sat back and enjoyed the show.

sit **back/by** *not be involved*

I refuse to sit back and do nothing when their lives are in danger.

sit **SEP down** *cause to be in a sitting position*

Momma sat us kids down and told us that Grandma had died.

sit **in for** _____ *replace*

The sports editor sat in for the regular news anchor last night.

sit **in (on** _____) *attend ([an event])*

The board meeting is tomorrow morning, and I'd like to sit in.

Would it be okay if I sat in on your Language and Culture class?

sit **on** _____ *be a member of*

She sat on the jury that convicted my neighbor.

Senator Blather sits on the Committee on Appropriations.

sit **on** _____ *delay in revealing*

The reporter is sitting on a story about the president's health.

sit **SEP out** *not participate in*

I'm going to sit this dance out.

sit **through** _____ *attend all of*

Do we have to sit through another boring lecture?

sit **up** *sit upright*

Sit up! Slouching is bad for your posture.

sit **up** *not go to bed*

Kristen sat up knitting half the night.

sit **up** *become suddenly alert*

Cassie sat up suddenly and looked at the door.

Preview from Notesale.co.
Page 189 of 254

PRESENT

I spend we spend
 you spend you spend
 he/she/it spends they spend
 • *He spends too much when he eats out.*

PAST

I spent we spent
 you spent you spent
 he/she/it spent they spent
 • *We spent some time with my parents.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has spent

PAST PERFECT ... had spent

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am spending we are spending
 you are spending you are spending
 he/she/it is spending they are spending
 • *We are spending too much time on this project.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was spending we were spending
 you were spending you were spending
 he/she/it was spending they were spending
 • *We were spending a week in Phoenix.*

FUTURE ... will spend

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be spending

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have spent

PAST PASSIVE

I was spent we were spent
 you were spent you were spent
 he/she/it was spent they were spent
 • *A fortune was spent trying to fix the problem.*

COMPLEMENTS

spend pay out money

The kids just love to spend.
 We can't keep spending at this rate.
 They spend and spend until they are broke.

spend _____ [a sum of money]
 OBJECT

We've spent a lot fixing our roof.
 They spend **over half their income** on housing.
 You have to spend **money** to make money.

PASSIVE

The insurance settlement had already been spent.

spend _____ be occupied for [a period of time]

OBJECT + ADVERB OF PLACE

I will spend **all of next week in Chicago**.
 The kids spent **half the summer at camp**.

OBJECT + PRESENT PARTICIPLE

We spent **all week working on the budget**.
 A horse spends **three hours a day sleeping**.

PASSIVE

Last weekend was spent **cleaning out the garage**.

spend _____ exhaust, use up

OBJECT

The storm finally spent **itself** during the night.
 General Lee had already spent **all his reserves**.

PASSIVE

Your talent would be better spent writing textbooks.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 200 of 254

strike _____ reach/achieve [an agreement, compromise]

OBJECT

The two sides finally struck **a deal**.
You must strike **the right balance between compassion and assertiveness**.

PASSIVE

A compromise on the budget was finally struck.

PHRASAL VERBS**strike back/down/out** attack in a specified direction

The hero struck back with his mighty sword.

strike SEP **back/down/out** hit in a specified direction

Roger struck Steve down with a blow to the head.

strike SEP **down** invalidate [a law]

The Supreme Court struck down the gay marriage ban as unconstitutional.

strike SEP **off** remove

The secretary struck off the names of those who hadn't paid dues.

strike off/out (for _____) set out (to [someplace])

Thousands struck out for California in search of gold.

strike on _____ realize suddenly

The author struck on the idea of setting the novel in colonial America.

strike out fail

Brandon struck out trying to convince the judge he was sane.

strike SEP **up** begin

Ben struck up a conversation with the receptionist. Sadie and Sally struck up a friendship at school.

EXPRESSIONS**strike a balance** (between _____) compromise (between [two things])

She manages to strike a balance between her work and her family.

strike a bargain/deal reach agreement

The union and the company struck a bargain at the eleventh hour.

strike a chord (with _____) sound familiar to [someone]

Those words strike a chord with me; what song are they from?

strike a happy medium find a satisfactory compromise

She speaks French and I speak English, so we struck a happy medium and watched a French film with English subtitles.

strike a nerve cause a strong negative reaction

Your insensitive comment about immigration really struck a nerve.

strike _____ **funny** seem humorous/odd to

It strikes me funny that they dropped charges against the politician.

strike home make sense

His advice to save for a rainy day really strikes home.

strike it rich become suddenly wealthy

They struck it rich in the real estate business.

strike [one, two, ... twelve / midnight] [OF A CLOCK] indicate the hour by a certain number of sounds

The clock struck one, and the mouse ran down. [NURSERY RHYME]

strike pay dirt become suddenly successful

The Mars rover has struck pay dirt: It has discovered evidence of water on the planet.

strike [someone's] **fancy** appeal to [someone]

Miss Elizabeth Bennet struck Mr. Darcy's fancy.

strike while the iron is hot do something while one has the opportunity

The economy is booming, and the board recommends that the company strike while the iron is hot.

PRESENT

I string we string
 you string you string
 he/she/it strings they string

• *He strings Christmas lights in the trees.*

PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I am stringing we are stringing
 you are stringing you are stringing
 he/she/it is stringing they are stringing

• *The kids are stringing beads.*

PAST

I strung we strung
 you strung you strung
 he/she/it strung they strung

• *I strung the bows for the children.*

PAST PROGRESSIVE

I was stringing we were stringing
 you were stringing you were stringing
 he/she/it was stringing they were stringing

• *We were stringing shells for a wall hanging.*

PRESENT PERFECT ... have | has strung

PAST PERFECT ... had strung

FUTURE ... will string

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE ... will be stringing

FUTURE PERFECT ... will have strung

PAST PASSIVE

I was strung we were strung
 you were strung you were strung
 he/she/it was strung they were strung

• *My tennis racket was strung too tight.*

COMPLEMENTS

string _____ hang/stretch [in a line]

OBJECT

We used to string **ponco** and **cranberries** on our Christmas tree.

The fishermen string **lines** in the channel.

PASSIVE

The decorating committee wanted to string **lanterns** in the hall.

A trip wire had been strung across the path.

string _____ thread (on a line/cord)

OBJECT

Kids love to string **different shapes of uncooked pasta**.

When we catch fish, we string **them** on a line.

PASSIVE

The beads were strung to make simple necklaces.

string _____ put strings on [a racket, bow, musical instrument]

OBJECT

You can't string **a tennis racket** by hand.

It takes a great deal of strength to string **a powerful bow**.

PASSIVE

The instruments were all strung by a professional musician.

PHRASAL VERBS

string SEP **along** keep [someone] hoping for romance / a reward

Jenny strung Reggie along for several months before telling him to get lost.

He strings employees along by promising raises that they never get.

string SEP **out** prolong

The professor was stringing out his lecture on quantum gravity.

string SEP **up** hang by the neck

An angry mob strung the cattle thieves up in the town square.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
 Page 216 of 254

- set* **set** 119
 sewn **sew** 120
 shaken **shake** 121
 shaven **shave** 122
 shed* **shed** 124
 shod **shoe** 126
 shone **shine** 125
 shook **shake** 121
 shorn **shear** 123
 shot **shoot** 127
 shown **show** 128
 shrank **shrink** 129
 shrunk **shrink** 129
 shut* **shut** 130
 slain **slay** 134
 slept **sleep** 135
 slew **slay** 134
 slid **slide** 136
 slit* **slit** 139
 slung **sling** 137
 slunk **slink** 138
 snuck **sneak** 140
 sold **sell** 117
 sought **seek** 116
 sown **sow** 141
 spat **spit** 146
 sped **speed** 143
 spent **spend** 144
 spit* **spit** 146
 split* **split** 147
 spoke **speak** 142
 spoken **speak** 142
 sprang **spring** 149
 spread* **spread** 148
 sprung **spring** 149
 spun **spin** 145
 stank **stink** 154
 stole **steal** 151
 stolen **steal** 151
 stood **stand** 150
 strewn **strew** 155
 stricken **strike** 157
 stridden **stride** 156
 striven **strive** 159
 strode **stride** 156
 strove **strive** 159
 struck **strike** 157
 strung **string** 158
 stuck **stick** 152
 stung **sting** 153
 stunk **stink** 154
 sung **sing** 131
 sunk **sink** 132
 swam **swim** 164
 sweat* **sweat** 161
 swept **sweep** 162
 swollen **swell** 163
 swore **swear** 160
 sworn **swear** 160
 swum **swim** 164
 swung **swing** 165
 taken **take** 166
 taught **teach** 167
 telecast* **telecast** 169
 thought **think** 171
 threw **throw** 173
 thriven **thrive** 172
 throve **thrive** 172
 thrown **throw** 173
 thrust* **thrust** 174
 told **tell** 170
 took **take** 166
 tore **tear** 168
 torn **tear** 168
 trod **tread** 175
 trodden **tread** 175
 understood **understand** 176
 upheld **uphold** 177
 upset* **upset** 178
 was **be** 3
 wed* **wed** 182
 went **go** 71
 wept **weep** 183
 were **be** 3
 wet* **wet** 184
 woke **wake** 179
 woken **wake** 179
 won **win** 185
 wore **wear** 180
 worn **wear** 180
 wound **wind** 186
 wove **weave** 181
 woven **weave** 181
 written **write** 188
 wrote **write** 188
 wrung **wring** 187