Unit 3: Usage & Tense

Lesson 7: Verb Usage

Principal Parts: The four basic forms of a verb

Present I study each night.
Present Participle I am studying now.
Past I studied last night.

Past Participle I have *studied* every night this week.

Regular Verbs: Forms its past and past participle by adding *-ed* or *-d* to the present

Ex. sail sailed use used

Irregular Verb: Does not form its past and past participle by adding -ed or -d

Ex. burst (have) burst (have) put put (have) brought bring (have) said sav (have) broken break (have) known know ring (have) rung (have) come come



Write the past or the past participle of each verb in parentheses.

- 1. The spacecraft (weigh) too much.
- 2. The early version of this material, however, would have (break) the astronauts' teeth if it had been (eat).
- 3. The grits were important because they (hold) the mixture together.
- 4. The scientists, however, were (refuse) a patent because an edible structure had already been (patent).
- 5. The exciting aspect of the discovery was that it also could be (eat)!

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Lesson 8: Verb Tense

Verb Tense: Form a verb takes (using the principle parts) to express a particular time

Present I see at least one movie a week.

Past I saw a movie last night.

Future I will see another movie this weekend.

Present Perfect I have seen three movies so far this month.

Past Perfect I had not seen many movies before last year.

Future Perfect By the end of this year, I *will have seen* over 100 movies.

Present Tense

Expresses action (or the state of being) that is taking place at the present time It also expresses customary or habitual action and a general truth

• Present Action Pamela *skates* very well.

• Habitual Action Every Saturday we *meet* at the gym.

• General Truth Honesty *is* the best policy.

Past Tense

Expresses action (or state of being) that occurred at a definite time in the past Ex. Last week we *won* the soccer match against St. Mary's.

Future Tense

Expresses action (or state of being) that will take place in the future Ex. Bill *will arrive* on the 9:37 flight from Atlanta.

Present Perfect Tense

Expresses action (or state of being) that occurred at some indefinite time in the past It also expresses action that started in the past and is still going on

Ex. Peggy has called Mr. Miller about a summer job.

(You do not know exactly when she called.)

Ex. Ray Jones has been the team manager for two seasons.

(He is still the manager now.)

Past Perfect Tense

Expresses action (or state of being) that took place before some other event in the past

Ex. Jan *had lived* there two years before she moved to Boston.

(The *living* came before the *moving*.)

Ex. Judy knew that she had seen Michael for the last time.

(The *seeing* came before the *knowing*.)

Future Perfect Tense

Expresses action (or state of being) that will be completed at some future time before another event

• This tense is seldom used

Ex. I will have left for Texas by the time you receive this letter.

Progressive Forms

Each of the six tenses has an additional form that is used to express continuing action It consists of a form of the verb *be* plus the present participle of the verb

Present Progressive am, is, are swimming was, were swimming shall/will be swimming has, have been swimming had been swimming

Future Perfect Progressive shall/will have been swimming



Identify the tense of each verb.

- 1. In Amsterdam, more than one third of the people *own* bicycles.
- 2. Buck *told* us that he *had seen* that movie three times.
- 3. The team *has been practicing* for two weeks now.
- 4. Wendy will be in our homeroom.



Circle the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- 1. The Cardinals (won, have won) every game to date.
- 2. I discovered that Frank (broke, had broken) the stereo.
- 3. Barbara (played, has played) the piano since age ten.
- 4. I hope we (hear, will hear) from him by tomorrow.
- 5. Last week I (read, had read) a mystery story.
- 6. Yesterday, I learned that I (won, had won) the contest.
- 7. We (lived, had lived) in Oklahoma for three years before we moved to Texas.



Correct the verb tense, if necessary.

- 1. When Ed hooked the fish, he has a hard time landing it.
- 2. Once Jennifer became president of the council, she forms many committees.
- 3. The temperature is so high that the flowers are wilting.
- 4. The search party went back to the camp. Martin continues to look for the lost campers by himself.

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Lesson 9: Pronoun Usage

Case: The form of a noun or a pronoun that indicates its use in a sentence

Nominative Case: Used for subjects and predicate nominatives

Ex. I, you, he, she, it, we, you, they

• Independent Clause We arrived at seven, but they came even later.

• Subordinate Clause After we eat, let's go to the movies.

• Predicate Nominative The winner was *he*.

That was *she* on the phone.

Objective Case: Used for direct objects, and objects of a preposition

Ex. me, you, him, her, it, us, you, them

Direct Objects
 Indirect Objects
 Carlos wants *them* to visit.
 Please pour *me* a glass of milk.

Possessive Case: Used to show ownership or possession

Ex. my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, our, ours, their, theirs

Before a Noun I enjoyed her story very much.By Themselves Is this notebook yours or mine?

• Possessive Pronoun *Her* piano is out of tune.



Circle and rewrite each pronoun that is in the wrong case. Identify the proper case. If a sentence is correct, simply leave it alone.

- 1. Us hikers froze like statues when we saw the snake.
- 2. There's some cold chicken in the refrigerator for both Carrie and her.
- 3. People like Arlene and he should be veterinarians.
- 4. The captains of the soccer team are Cullen and him.
- 5. The meal pleased even we gourmets.
- 6. Everybody ate a second helping except Otis and me.
- 7. Finally they found seats in the bleachers beside Maureen and he.
- 8. He was pleased with me trying out for the varsity soccer team.

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Lesson 10: Pronoun Problems

Who or Whom

The correct case of *who* is determined by how the pronoun is used in a question or clause

Nominative Case who, whoeverObjective Case whom, whomever

• Possessive Case whose



Circle the correct form of the pronoun and label it as subject, predicate nominative, direct object, or object of the preposition.

- 1. (Who, Whom) did you say is coming to dinner?
- 2. For (who, whom) should I ask?
- 3. Have you found out (who, whom) the finalists are?
- 4. (Who, Whom) did you see at the mall?
- 5. (Who, Whom) do you think painted that poster?

Elliptical Clauses: A subordinate clause that begins with than or as

- Although words are omitted from an elliptical clause, they are understood to be there
- Use the form of the pronoun you would use if the clause was completed

Double meaning

Peg spends more time with Jeff than I.

Peg spends more time with Jeff than me.

Peg spends more time with Jeff than *I* spend with Jeff.

Peg spends more time with Jeff than she spends with me.

One meaning

Nick is a better diver than (I, me).



Circle the correct pronoun for each clause.

- 1. Chuck plays a better game of basketball than (I, me).
- 2. Did you collect as many signatures as (he, him)?
- 3. My aunt spends more time with them than (we, us).
- 4. Willis is better than (he, him) in the high jump.
- 5. I wish everyone was as friendly as (she, her).

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Unit 4: Phrases

Lesson 11

Phrase: Group of related words that function as a single part of speech

A phrase does not have a subject and a verb

Types of Phrases

Adjective Phrase: Prepositional phrase used to modify a noun or pronoun

Ex. Some of the tickets to the game have been lost

Adverb Phrase: Prepositional phrase used to modify a verb, an adjective, or an adverb

Ex. During dinner the phone rang six times.

Ex. Susan was happy with her score.

Ex. His plane arrives late in the evening.

Appositive: Noun or pronoun that identifies another noun or pronoun

Ex. Raymond wrote his report on the Greek hero *Hercules*.

Appositive Phrase: Group of words that contains an appositive & its modifiers

Ex. The movie, a thriller with special effects, was exciting but scary.

Participle: Verb form that is used as an adjective

Ex. The *blazing* sun melted the *frozen* pond.

Participle Phrase: Participle with its modifiers and complements, all working together as an adjective

Ex. Every runner winning a race will receive a medal.

Gerund: Verb form that is used as a noun

Ex. *Talking* is not allowed in the study hall.

Gerund Phrase: Gerund with its modifiers and complements, all working together as a noun

Ex. *Painting landscapes* is Rebecca's specialty.

Infinitive: Verb form that usually begins with to

Ex. This year Belleville is the team to beat.

Infinitive Phrase: Infinitive with its modifiers and compliments, all working together as a noun, an

adjective, or an adverb

Ex. To win at chess requires concentration and patience.

Misplaced Modifier

Incorrect Rick saw two owls camping on Mount Greylock.

Correct Camping on Mount Greylock, Rick saw two owls.



Underline the phrase(s) in the following sentences and label as prepositional (prep.), appositive (appos.), participle (part.), gerund (ger.), or infinitive (inf.).

- 1. Porpoises have been trained to play basketball.
- 2. I will be going to the library soon.
- 3. Built of mud, the oldest house in the U.S. stands in New Mexico.
- 4. Saccharin, an artificial sweetener, is a coal-tar product.
- 5. The Caseys told us about their moving to Indiana.
- 6. Camping in the mountains is my idea of a good time.
- 7. Twenty-four percent of California is desert.
- 8. Tigers, the ancestors of present-day Asian mammals, once roamed the U.S.
- 9. No one over six feet can qualify to become an astronaut.
- 10. Having read the chapter, Bernie answered the questions.
- 11. I just heard of your winning a trip to Washington, D.C.!
- 12. The fruit with the highest number of calories is the avocado.
- 13. Almost everyone I know likes getting out of school early.
- 14. Jupiter, the largest planet, has the shortest day of all the planets.
- 15. Are you going to refinish the surface of that old table?
- 16. According to the Nielsen ratings, the average American spends 49 hours a week in front of the TV set.
- 17. Arriving before anyone else, Yvette set up the projector.
- 18. Being elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame establishes a player as a baseball immortal.
- 19. The koala, a marsupial of Australia, eats only eucalyptus leaves.
- 20. Staggering under the heavy packs, the mules slowly picked their way up the rocky mountain path.