

Notes on Verbs

Express action (*hit, jump, scream*) or state-of-being (*am, seems, will be*)

Two Types: action and linking

A verb tells what the subject is doing or what is being done to the subject. Rules for verbs mostly have to do with tense and agreement with subject.

Rule #1: Tense of verb places the action at a particular time. We are only covering the 6 basic tenses *(there are 12 total- the other 6 being progressive forms using the -ing verb or present participle: I am eating, I was eating, I will be eating)

Present: I eat

Past: I ate

Future: I will eat

Present perfect: I have eaten

Past perfect: I had eaten

Future perfect: I will have eaten

Use the present tense if:

- The action is taking place right now: *I am hungry.*
- The action happens habitually: *I am hungry every afternoon*
- You are stating a fact: *Bob Dylan is a great songwriter.*
- You want a dramatic effect in fiction: *The phone rings. She answers.*

Use present perfect if:

- The action started in the past but continues into the present: *I have eaten 16 cookies so far this week.*
- The action started and finished at an earlier time but affects the present: *I have eaten all of the pie, so there isn't any left for you.*

Use the past tense if:

- The action happened in the past and will not continue: *I ate the venison.*

Use the past perfect if:

- You are discussing an action already in the past, and you need to make clear that another action happened even earlier: *Before I ate your dessert, I had eaten 87 doughnuts(ate-past tense, had eaten-past perfect)*

Use future tense if:

- You are talking about something that will happen in the future: *Tomorrow, I will go on a diet.*

Use future perfect if:

- An action is finished before a specified time in the future: *By next week, I will have lost 10 lbs.* *This tense combines past and future

Rule #2: In order to conjugate verbs, your ear will help you match the correct verb to your subject: I go vs. I goes. Here are some terms for conjugating.

PERSON: This applies only when you have an actual person as the subject of a verb.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
First person	I	we
Second person	you	you
Third person	he/she	they

PRESENT PARTICIPLE: the -ing verb form. This form goes with “is” or “are” to form continuous tenses (present): *is walking, are swearing, is loving*

INFINITIVE: the *to* form of the verb, as in *to go, to do, to see*

PAST PARTICIPLE: the form of the verb that goes with *have* to form present perfect: *have walked, have sworn, have loved*

*** The right verb form presents no problem if the verb is regular. A regular verb conjugates like any other regular verb: *I move, I moved, I am moving, I have moved*.

If the verb is irregular, conjugation is not that simple. Here is a list of often misused irregular AND regular verbs:

Present	Past	Past Participle
Blow	Blew	Blown
Bring	Brought	Brought
Creep	Crept	Crept
Dive	Dived	Dived
Draw	Drew	Drawn
Drink	Drank	Drunk
Freeze	Froze	Frozen
Get	Got	Gotten
Grow	Grew	Grown
Hang (object)	Hung	Hung
Hang (person)	Hanged	Hanged
Lay (object)	Laid	Laid
Lie (resting)	Lay	Lain
Ring	Rang	Rung
Shake	Shook	Shaken
Sin	Sank	Sunk
Slay	Slew	Slain
Spring	Sprang/Sprung	Sprung
Swim	Swam	Swum

Notes on Adverbs

Modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs

Example: *run quickly, often happy, too quickly*

Adverbs tell you where, when, or how!!

Common adverbs: *soon, often, too, also, not, them, now, yet, here, again. Once, there, thus, almost*

Rule #1: Even though adjectives and adverbs are modifiers, adjectives ALWAYS modify nouns, but adverbs NEVER modify nouns!

Example: Jake was a *little* sleepy (adverb *little* modify adjective sleep_ Jake took a little nap. (Adjective *little* modifying noun nap)

Rule #2: Adverbs always follow the same form as adjectives when they are used to make comparisons.

<u>POSITIVE</u>	<u>COMPARATIVE</u>	<u>SUPERLATIVE</u>
Soon	Sooner	Soonest
Little	Less	Least
Headily	more heartily	most heartily

Rule #3: in placing adverbs, put the adverb *as close as possible* to the word being modified. Otherwise the meaning of the sentence changes

Example:

- My headache was *only* temporary.
- *Only* my headache was temporary.

Notes on Prepositions

- Express relationships between other words, including relationships of time or space. A helpful trick to determine a preposition is to place it before the words “the stove” or “the fence”
- Prepositions define relationships: “The stove/the fence” is the object of the preposition.

Rule #1: Use *between* when talking about *two* things or groups and use *among* three people.

Examples:

Cheyenne couldn't decide *between* the motorcycle and the jet ski.

The lottery prize was divide *among* three people.

The preposition together with its object and the modifiers of the object is called a prepositional phrase.

Example: The boy fell *off* the **boat**. (Prep. Phrase modifies verb *fell*; **boat** is the object of the preposition; *the* modifies boat)