

Chapter 12: Verb-Tense Problems: The Past Tense and the Past Participle

12-1: Using the Past Tense

For each of the following sentences, circle the correct past-tense form of the verb.

EXAMPLE

Three years ago, I (seen, saw) a frightening accident.

1. A small child (falled, fell) through the ice on a frozen pond.
2. I (tryed, tried) to warn him when I heard the ice cracking, but I was too late.
3. The boy (went, go) underwater for a moment, but suddenly he appeared again.
4. His mother (was, been) hysterical with fear.
5. She (found, finded) a long branch on the ground nearby.
6. She (helded, held) out the branch and told her son to grab it.
7. I thought the branch (will, would) be too short; luckily, however, the boy was able to reach it.
8. She (use, used) the branch to pull him out of the water.
9. Soon, an ambulance (come, came).
10. The boy was okay, but the incident (make, made) me think twice about letting go of my daughter's hand.

12-2: Using the Past Tense

For each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with the correct past-tense form of the verb in parentheses.

EXAMPLE

In 1877, Thomas Edison invented (invent) the phonograph.

1. Early phonographs _____ (be) large and strange-looking machines.
2. A huge horn _____ (stick) out of the top of the device.
3. In 1906, engineers for the Victor Talking Machine Company _____ (have) a brilliant idea.
4. They _____ (develop) a more attractive phonograph that looked less like a machine and more like a piece of furniture.
5. The engineers _____ (hide) the horn inside a beautiful cabinet.
6. The Victrola quickly _____ (become) the most popular type of home phonograph in the early 1900s.
7. Much later in the twentieth century, early electronic stereo systems also _____ (come) in a large cabinet.
8. As technology advanced, sound systems _____ (begin) to get smaller.
9. Some of the first portable devices _____ (include) the boom box and the personal cassette player.
10. In recent years, Apple _____ (introduce) the tiny iPod, which gets smaller and smaller with each new version.

12-3: Editing Past-Participle Problems

For each of the following sentences, correct problems with the use of past participles.

EXAMPLE

Since the founding of the United States, heroes have ^{become}~~became~~ an important part of our culture.

1. Heroes always have serve as role models for our children.
2. During wars, brave soldiers have bring us pride in our country.
3. Throughout history, heroes have spoke out against injustices.
4. Young people have always look up to athletes.
5. In recent years, however, we saw a lack of heroes in the sports world.
6. Lately, many athletes were poor role models.
7. Recently, accusations of steroid use were make against some baseball players.
8. In 2005, Congress had held a hearing about steroid use in professional sports.
9. The witness stand was took by several players, including some who are outspoken critics against steroid use.
10. Luckily, some players have remain heroes whom our children can look up to.

12-4: Using the Past and the Perfect Tenses

For each of the following sentences, underline the correct form and tense of the verb in parentheses.

EXAMPLE

College rules from the past (were, had been) quite different from the rules we have now.

1. When I was young, I often (got, had gotten) tired of hearing my grandfather talk about “the good old days.”
2. However, once I (grew, had grown) up, I started to appreciate his stories much more.
3. He was so excited to find out that I (got, had gotten) into college.
4. A proud college graduate himself, he wanted to hear all about my college experience and see how things (changed, had changed) since he was a student.
5. When he was in college, students (dressed, had dressed) formally for class.
6. Instructors (monitored, had monitored) class attendance carefully.
7. Back then, males and females (lived, have lived) in separate dormitories.
8. In recent years, rules like these (became, have become) more relaxed; students wear shorts and flip-flops and males and females often live in the same dorm.
9. Recent surveys (showed, have shown) that many college instructors don't take daily attendance in their classes.
10. Over the years, the rules (changed, have changed) greatly.

Chapter 12: Verb-Tense Problems

Chapter Review Test 1

In the space provided for each sentence, write the correct past-tense form of the verb in parentheses.

- _____ 1. Hoping to find a better method of rodent control, scientists in New Zealand recently (do) an experiment.
- _____ 2. They (try) to catch a single rat that was released on a rat-free island.
- _____ 3. The scientists (feel) that the experiment would help them learn more about how to trap rats that invade and damage island environments.
- _____ 4. In 2004, they (release) a single rat named Razza on Motuhoropapa, a small island off northeastern New Zealand.
- _____ 5. They (put) a radio tracking collar around the rat's neck.
- _____ 6. Then, they (set) traps baited with chocolate.
- _____ 7. Razza, however, (will) not take the bait.
- _____ 8. The scientists then (use) peanut butter, bird meat, and fish oil without any luck.
- _____ 9. After ten weeks, the radio collar (be) no longer working.
- _____ 10. At first, the scientists (can) not figure out what had happened to Razza.
- _____ 11. Then, they (hear) that a rat had appeared on a nearby island called Otata.
- _____ 12. Before then, Otata (have) no rats.
- _____ 13. DNA analysis of the rat's droppings (prove) that it was Razza.
- _____ 14. The scientists (be) certainly surprised that Razza (swim) 400 meters.
- _____ 15. They finally (catch) Razza eighteen weeks after he was first released.

Chapter 12: Verb-Tense Problems

Chapter Review Test 2

Read the following paragraph for errors in the use or formation of the past participle. If you find an error, write the correct verb on the corresponding line that follows the paragraph. If a sentence is correct, write **C**.

(1) When it was time to choose the chairperson for the fund-raiser our band elected the same person who had do it for the previous three years. (2) In fact, Suzanne has ran fund-raisers for every organization to which she ever belonged. (3) Soon after the election, we knew that we made the right choice once again. (4) This year, Suzanne's first two fund-raisers had been very successful. (5) She had begun by choosing a committee to assist her. (6) Not taking any chances, she selected only the most reliable people as committee members. (7) Randall had hope to be part of the committee, but Suzanne decided not to let him join. (8) Randall had been the treasurer for last year's fund-raiser. (9) We recently found out that he had spended some of the money from that fund-raiser on repairs for his car. (10) He has pay back the money now, but nobody felt comfortable having Randall on the committee again. (11) This time, Randall has promise Suzanne that he will work on a campaign on his own and raise more money for the band than anyone else.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | |

Chapter 12: Verb-Tense Problems

Chapter Review Test 3

In the blank space to the left of each sentence, write **A** if the sentence is in the active voice and **P** if the sentence is in the passive voice. If a sentence is in the passive voice, rewrite it on the line below the sentence to make it active.

_____ 1. Jeffrey was hired by the county's electric company to be a meter reader over the summer.

_____ 2. However, he was worried by one thing.

_____ 3. Dogs terrified Jeffrey.

_____ 4. When he was a small child, he was bitten by a dog.

_____ 5. That frightening experience was never forgotten by him.

_____ 6. This new job required him to enter houses with dogs.

_____ 7. Jeffrey was told by his supervisor how to handle this situation.

_____ 8. Whenever he visited a house with a dog, Jeffrey asked the homeowner to keep it in another room.

_____ 9. At the end of the summer, however, he decided to overcome his fear.

_____ 10. A gentle puppy was adopted by Jeffrey, and he soon learned how to feel comfortable around dogs.
