

The Past Participle



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Part A

Past Participles of Regular Verbs

The **past participle** is the form of the verb that can be combined with helping verbs like *have* and *has* to make verbs of more than one word:

Present Tense	Past Tense	Helping Verb plus Past Participle
1. They <i>skate</i> .	1. They <i>skated</i> .	1. They <i>have skated</i> .
2. Beth <i>dances</i> .	2. Beth <i>danced</i> .	2. Beth <i>has danced</i> .
3. Frank <i>worries</i> .	3. Frank <i>worried</i> .	3. Frank <i>has worried</i> .

- *Skated, danced, and worried* are all past participles of regular verbs.
- Note that both the *past tense* and the *past participle* of regular verbs end in *-ed* or *-d*.

(15) Within ten years, Atari grew into a major maker of home video games, including Breakout and Football. (16) The company introduced the joystick, which gave players more precise game control than the old knobs. (17) Ultimately, however, the arrival of the personal computer and strong overseas competition edged Atari out of the market. (18) Companies like Nintendo and Sega sent video game technology to new heights. (19) Yet Atari's Pong started it all—the humble beginning of a worldwide phenomenon.



Exploring Online

http://webster.commnet.edu/cgi-shl/par2_quiz.pl/irregular_quiz.htm

Type in the verbs; the machine checks you.

<http://writesite.cuny.edu/grammar/general/irregverbs/practice.html>

Graded practice: Change present tense to past.

PRACTICE 1 The first sentence of each pair that follows contains a regular verb in the past tense. Fill in *have* or *has* plus the past participle of the same verb to complete the second sentence.

1. Vance locked his keys in the car.

Vance _____ his keys in the car.

2. The carpenters gathered their tools from the littered floor.

The carpenters _____ their tools from the littered floor.

3. Clearly, you planned your vacation with care.

Clearly, you _____ your vacation with care.

4. Twice, Dianne and Carol visited the Dominican Republic.

Twice, Dianne and Carol _____ the Dominican Republic.

5. Detectives discovered the love letters in the garage.

Detectives _____ the love letters in the garage.

6. Mr. Yosufu carved this chess set out of wood.

Mr. Yosufu _____ this chess set out of wood.

7. My boss impressed everyone with her ability to read Chinese.

My boss _____ everyone with her ability to read Chinese.

8. Illness interrupted his work on the film.

Illness _____ his work on the film.

9. The windshields reflected the glow of the streetlights.

The windshields _____ the glow of the streetlights.

10. These three women studied with Madame Tebaldi.

These three women _____ with Madame Tebaldi.

Part B

Past Participles of Irregular Verbs

Most verbs that are irregular in the past tense are also irregular in the past participle, as shown in the box below.

Present Tense	Past Tense	Helping Verb plus Past Participle
1. We <i>sing</i> .	1. We <i>sang</i> .	1. We <i>have sung</i> .
2. Bill <i>writes</i> .	2. Bill <i>wrote</i> .	2. Bill <i>has written</i> .
3. I <i>think</i> .	3. I <i>thought</i> .	3. I <i>have thought</i> .

- Irregular verbs change from present to past to past participle in unusual ways.
- *Sung*, *written*, and *thought* are all past participles of irregular verbs.
- Note that the past tense and past participle of *think* are the same—*thought*.

Reference Chart
Irregular Verbs, Past and Past Participle

Simple Form	Past Tense	Past Participle
be	was, were	been
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dive	dove (dived)	dived
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed

(continued)

Reference Chart
Irregular Verbs, Past and Past Participle

(continued)

Simple Form	Past Tense	Past Participle
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade	forbidden
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got (gotten)
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grow	grew	grown
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
leave	left	left
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
quit	quit	quit
read	read	read
ride	rode	ridden
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
shake	shook	shaken
shine	shone (shined)	shone (shined)
sing	sang	sung
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept

(continued)

Reference Chart
Irregular Verbs, Past and Past Participle

(continued)

Simple Form	Past Tense	Past Participle
speak	spoke	spoken
spend	spent	spent
split	split	split
spring	sprang	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stink	stank	stunk
swim	swam	swum
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
throw	threw	thrown
understand	understood	understood
wake	woke (waked)	woken (waked)
wear	wore	worn
win	won	won
write	wrote	written

PRACTICE 2 The first sentence of each pair that follows contains an irregular verb in the past tense. Fill in *have* or *has* plus the past participle of the same verb to complete the second sentence.

1. Sean took plenty of time buying the groceries.

Sean _____ plenty of time buying the groceries.

2. We sent our latest budget to the mayor.

We _____ our latest budget to the mayor.

3. My daughter hid her diary.

My daughter _____ her diary.

4. The jockey rode all day in the hot sun.

The jockey _____ all day in the hot sun.

5. Hershey, Pennsylvania, became a great tourist attraction.

Hershey, Pennsylvania, _____ a great tourist attraction.

6. The company's managers knew about these hazards for two years.

The company's managers _____ about these hazards for two years.

7. Carrie floated down the river on an inner tube.

Carrie _____ down the river on an inner tube.

8. At last, our team won the bowling tournament.

At last, our team _____ the bowling tournament.

9. Larry and Marsha broke their long silence.

Larry and Marsha _____ their long silence.

10. Science fiction films were very popular this past year.

Science fiction films _____ very popular this past year.

PRACTICE 3

Complete each sentence by filling in *have* or *has* plus the past participle of the verb in parentheses. Some verbs are regular, some irregular.

1. Recently, soccer _____ (gain) in popularity in the United States.
2. Traditionally, most North Americans _____ (consider) soccer much less exciting than basketball, football, or hockey.
3. Moreover, many North American players _____ (find) it very difficult to compete at the highest levels of the game.
4. However, Canadian and U.S. interest in soccer _____ (grow) ever since the 1994 World Cup, which was held in the United States.
5. Sports fans _____ (see) the enormous enthusiasm and passionate emotion that soccer arouses in such countries as Argentina, Brazil, Italy, and Portugal.
6. Unexpected victories _____ (add) even more excitement to the game, like France's defeat of Brazil in the 1998 World Cup.
7. The United States also _____ (demonstrate) that it is able to win games in the biggest soccer competition in the world.

8. By advancing to the quarterfinals of the 2002 World Cup, the American soccer team _____ (win) new respect worldwide.
9. However, Brazil _____ (show) once again that it is soccer's international superstar.
10. Attention now _____ (turn) to the 2006 World Cup competition, which should be exciting because Germany will host.

Part C

Using the Present Perfect Tense

The **present perfect tense** is composed of the present tense of *to have* plus the past participle. The present perfect tense shows that an action has begun in the past and is continuing into the present.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Past tense: | Beatrice <i>taught</i> English for ten years. |
| 2. Present perfect tense | Beatrice <i>has taught</i> English for ten years. |

- In sentence 1, Beatrice *taught* English in the past, but she no longer teaches it. Note the use of the simple past tense, *taught*.
- In sentence 2, Beatrice *has taught* for ten years and is still teaching English *now*. *Has taught* implies that the action is continuing.

PRACTICE 4 Read these sentences carefully for meaning. Then circle the correct verb—either the past tense or the present perfect tense.

1. He (directed, has directed) the theater group for many years now.
2. Emilio lifted the rug and (has swept, swept) the dust under it.
3. She (went, has gone) to a poetry slam last night.
4. For the past four years, I (took, have taken) art classes in the summer.
5. We (talked, have talked) about the problem of your lateness for three days; it's time for you to do something about it.
6. While he was in Japan, he (took, have taken) many photographs of shrines.
7. She (won, has won) that contest ten years ago.
8. The boxers (fought, have fought) for an hour, and they look very tired.

- 9 He (applied, has applied) to three colleges and attended the one with the best sociology department.
10. The auto mechanics (had, have had) a radio show together for five years and are now extremely popular.

Part D

Using the Past Perfect Tense

The **past perfect tense** is composed of the past tense of *to have* plus the past participle. The past perfect tense shows that an action occurred further back in the past than other past action.

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Past tense: Rhonda <i>left</i> for the movies. 2. Past perfect tense: Rhonda <i>had already left</i> for the movies by the time we <i>arrived</i>. |
|--|

- In sentence 1, *left* is the simple past.
- In sentence 2, the past perfect *had left* shows that this action occurred even before another action in the past, *arrived*.

PRACTICE 5 Read these sentences carefully for meaning. Then circle the correct verb—either the **past tense** or the **past perfect tense**.

1. Tony came to the office with a cane last week because he (sprained, had sprained) his ankle a month ago.
- 2 As Janice (piled, had piled) the apples into a pyramid, she thought, "I should become an architect."
- 3 Juan (finished, had finished) his gardening by the time I (drove, had driven) up in my new convertible.
4. The man nervously (looked, had looked) at his watch and then walked a bit faster.
5. Roberto told us that he (decided, had decided) to enlist in the Marines.
6. The caller asked whether we (received, had received) our free toaster yet.
7. Last week he told me that he (forgot, had forgotten) to mail the rent check.
8. As the curtain came down, everyone (rose, had risen) and applauded the Brazilian dance troupe.
- 9 Scott (closed, had closed) his books and went to the movies.
10. The prosecutor proved that the defendant was lying; until then I (believed, had believed) he was innocent.

Part E

Using the Passive Voice (*To Be* and the Past Participle)

The **passive voice** is composed of the past participle with some form of *to be* (*am, is, are, was, were, has been, have been, or had been*). In the passive voice, the subject does not act but is *acted upon*.

Compare the passive voice with the active voice in the following pairs of sentences.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. Passive voice: | This newspaper <i>is written</i> by journalism students. |
| 2. Active voice: | Journalism students <i>write</i> this newspaper. |
| 3. Passive voice: | My garden <i>was devoured</i> by rabbits. |
| 4. Active voice: | Rabbits <i>devoured</i> my garden. |

- In sentence 1, the subject, *this newspaper*, is passive; it is acted upon. In sentence 2, the subject, *students*, is active; it performs the action.
- Note the difference between the passive verb *is written* and the active verb *write*.
- However, both verbs (*is written* and *write*) are in the *present tense*.
- The verbs in sentences 3 and 4 are both in the *past tense*: *was devoured* (passive) and *devoured* (active).

Use the **passive voice sparingly**. Write in the passive voice when you want to emphasize the receiver of the action rather than the doer.

PRACTICE 6 Fill in the correct **past participle** form of the verb in parentheses to form the passive voice. If you are not sure, check the chart on pages 396–398.

1. The barn was _____ (build) by friends of the family.
2. Who was _____ (choose) to represent us at the union meeting?
3. These ruby slippers were _____ (give) to me by my grandmother.
4. These jeans are _____ (sell) in three sizes.
5. On their weekend camping trip, Sheila and Una were constantly _____ (bite) by mosquitoes and gnats.
6. It was _____ (decide) that Bill would work the night shift.
7. The getaway car is always _____ (drive) by a man in a gray fedora.
8. Her articles have been _____ (publish) in the *Texas Monthly*.
9. Harold was _____ (see) sneaking out the back door.
10. A faint inscription is _____ (etch) on the back of the old gold watch.

PRACTICE 7 Rewrite each sentence, changing the verb into the **passive voice**. Make all necessary verb and subject changes. Be sure to keep the sentence in the original tense.

Example My father wore this silk hat.

This silk hat was worn by my father.

1. The goalie blocked the shot.

2. The lifeguard taught us to swim.

3. The usher warned the noisy group.

4. Her rudeness hurt her reputation.

5. The campers folded up the tent.

6. The judges declared the match a draw.

7. The conductor punched my ticket full of holes.

8. The interviewer asked too many personal questions.

Part F

Using the Past Participle as an Adjective

The past participle form of the verb can be used as an adjective after a linking verb:

1. The window is *broken*.

■ The adjective *broken* describes the subject *window*.

The **past participle** form of the verb can sometimes be used as an adjective before a noun or a pronoun.

2. This *fried* chicken tastes wonderful.

- The adjective *fried* describes the noun *chicken*.

PRACTICE 8 Use the past participle form of the verb in parentheses as an adjective in each sentence.

1. My _____ (use) laptop was a great bargain at only \$200.
2. Bob is highly _____ (qualify) to install a water heater.
3. The _____ (air-condition) room was making everyone shiver.
4. The newly _____ (rise) cinnamon bread smelled wonderful.
5. Were you _____ (surprise) to hear about my raise?
6. He feels _____ (depress) on rainy days.
7. She knows the power of the _____ (write) word.
8. My gym teacher seems _____ (prejudice) against short people.
9. The _____ (embarrass) child pulled her jacket over her head.
10. We ordered _____ (toss) salad, _____ (broil) salmon, _____ (mash) potatoes, and _____ (bake) apple rings.

PRACTICE 9 Proofread the following paragraph for errors in past participles used as adjectives. Correct the errors by writing above the lines.

(1) To experience the food of another culture is to appreciate that culture in new ways. (2) A fine example is the traditional Chinese wedding banquet, where each beautiful dish is chosen, prepare, and presented to carry a promise for the couple's future. (3) Carefully season shark's fin soup opens the feast; this rare and expensive treat signifies health and long life to both family lines. (4) Each table receives its own glazed Peking duck to indicate the couple's fidelity. (5) In Chinese tradition, chicken represents the phoenix, a magic bird that rises from the ashes, and lobster represents the dragon. (6) Often combine and bake in a single dish,

these two foods mark the peaceful union of two families. (7) Because the Chinese word for fish sounds like “abundance,” a whole steamed fish is offered to the newly marry couple—a wish for prosperity. (8) At the end of the meal, satisfy guests enjoy dessert buns filled with lotus seeds, promising fertility and future children. (9) It should come as no surprise that an old-fashion Chinese banquet can last an entire day.

PRACTICE 10 REVIEW

Proofread the following essay for past participle errors. Correct the errors by writing above the lines.

Crazy as They Want to Be

(1) *Saturday Night Live*, the wacky late-night comedy program, has entertain generations of television viewers since 1975. (2) The show has took aim at presidents, self-help experts, Olympic athletes, and current issues—as when concerns about the environment inspired a Global Warming Christmas Special. (3) The dream job of every aspiring comedian, *SNL* is credit with launching many careers. (4) Eddie Murphy, Billy Crystal, Damon Wayans, Mike Meyers, and Chris Rock are just a few of the celebrate comedians who were introduced to the public in outrageous *SNL* sketches like the Coneheads, Mr. Robinson’s Neighborhood, and Wayne’s World.

(5) Although men have outnumber women throughout the show’s history, *SNL* recently has presented more, funny females. (6) Cheri Oteri is one of the comics whose creative energy has electrify the aging program. (7) She has made her mark with dead-on impressions of Barbara Walters, Mariah Carey, and Judge Judy. (8) Perhaps Oteri’s best-known character is the clumsy cheerleader Arianna, who fails to make the squad but shows up optimistically at every team event. (9) Another talented comic, Molly Shannon, is recognize for her portrayal of Catholic schoolgirl Mary Katherine Gallagher, a boy-craze adolescent who falls

through walls. (10) Nominate for an Emmy, Shannon was ask to take Mary Katherine onto the big screen in *Superstar*.

(11) *Saturday Night Live* continues to update its image. (12) In 2001, Tina Fey became the first female head writer in the show's history. (13) With her trademark dark-rimmed glasses and navy suit, the bookish brunette has become hugely popular in her role as a cheery, poison-tongue anchorwoman opposite Jimmy Fallon on *SNL's* fake news. (14) When Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman were divorce, Fey wisecracked that their children would be returned to the studio's prop room. (15) With comics like Fey, *SNL* might have attracted a new generation of viewers.



Exploring Online

<http://online.ohlone.cc.ca.us/~mlieu/participles/review2.htm>
Graded past participle crossword puzzle; try it.