

UNIT 3 Getting Your Verb Forms Right

WRITING APPLICATION A: Choosing Irregular Verb Forms

The framework of a house is made up of pieces of wood in many different sizes. Many of the wood pieces come in standard sizes and shapes, but other pieces are irregular in size and shape. Similarly, in writing, verbs such as *see*, *do*, *go*, *come*, *run*, and *give* are frequently used in the basic structure of sentences. However, the past-tense forms of these verbs are irregular. Since you will use these basic verbs often as you write, you need to memorize those verb forms you do not already know.

Present	Simple Past	Past with Helper
see	saw	have seen
do	did	have done
go	went	have gone
come	came	have come
run	ran	have run
give	gave	have given

Writing Assignment: On a separate sheet of paper, write about a picnic or other outing in which you participated. Describe who went, what you did and saw, and any special events in which you participated. Use four of the verbs above in your writing to give yourself practice with irregular verb forms.

Evaluation Checklist: Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- _____ I have used the correct verb forms in my writing.
- _____ My writing follows a logical order.
- _____ Each of my paragraphs includes a topic sentence and supporting sentences.

Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version: Revise your draft based on your evaluation. Make sure you have included in your writing at least four verbs from the list. Proofread your revised draft carefully. Then write your draft in final form.

WRITING APPLICATION B: Using the Right Verb Forms

Have you ever stopped yourself in mid-sentence when speaking or writing because you did not know the correct word to use? For example, you may have been unsure whether to say *ate* or *eaten*, or *knew* or *known*. Knowing which word to use means knowing irregular verb forms. You should not use guesswork; instead, you must memorize the irregular forms of verbs to know which ones to use. Verb forms for three irregular verbs are shown on the next page.

Present	Simple Past	Past with Helper
break	broke	have broken
eat	ate	have eaten
know	knew	have known

Writing Assignment: On a separate sheet of paper, write in the past tense about one of the following topics. Use the verb in the topic at least three times.

An item that you have broken An interesting person you have known
 An unusual but flavorful food you have eaten

Evaluation Checklist: Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- _____ I have used the past tense in my writing.
- _____ I have used the correct verb forms in my writing.

Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version: Revise your draft based on your evaluation. Write a title for your composition if you have not already done so. Then proofread your revised draft. Write your draft in final form.

WRITING APPLICATION C: Using Lie and Lay, Sit and Set, Rise and Raise

Introducing a good friend by the wrong name may embarrass you and confuse your friend. Similarly, in writing, using the wrong word in a sentence can embarrass you and confuse your readers. Three commonly confused sets of words are *lie* and *lay*, *sit* and *set*, and *rise* and *raise*. Memorize their meanings and their verb forms to prevent using the wrong words in your writing.

Present	Simple Past	Past with Helper
lie (recline)	lay	have lain
lay (put)	laid	have laid
sit (sitting position)	sat	have sat
set (put)	set	have set
rise (go up)	rose	have risen
raise (lift)	raised	have raised

Writing Assignment: On a separate sheet of paper, write in the past tense about one of the following topics. Use each of the verbs in the topic at least twice.

Setting Chairs Where People Like to Sit Raising Questions About Rising Prices
 Laying Down Rules About Lying on the Lawn

Evaluation Checklist: Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- _____ I have used the past tense in my writing.
- _____ I have used correct verb forms in my writing.

Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version: Revise your draft based on your evaluation. Write your chosen topic as the title of your paper. Then proofread your revised draft. Write your draft in final form.