



FRESHMAN ENGLISH II

WEEK # 5
LECTURE # 9



PERFECT TENSES



CORRECT FORM OF VERB: PERFECT TENSE

- ✓ **Past perfect places one event in the past before another event in the past.**

“Mike had dumped his dirty laundry in his mother’s basement long before she decided to change the front-door lock.”

- ✓ **Present perfect links the past and the present by describing an action or state of being that began in the past and is still going on.**

“Despite numerous reports of sightings around the world, Kristin has stayed close to home,”

- ✓ **Future perfect implies a deadline sometime in the future.**

“Before sundown, David will have toasted several dozen loaves of bread,”

CORRECT FORM OF VERB: PERFECT TENSE

Try this example and then plunge ahead. The verb you're working on appears as an infinitive (the basic, no-tense form) at the end of the sentence. Change it into the correct tense and fill in the blank.

Q. Kristin _____ an acceptance speech, but the Spy of the Year title went to Hanna instead. (to prepare)

A. **had prepared**. With two events in the past, the had signals the prior event. The preparing of the speech took place before the awarding of the title, so had prepared is the form you want.

CORRECT FORM OF VERB: PERFECT TENSE

16. Mike _____ on thin ice for two hours when he heard the first crack. (to skate)
17. Diane _____ Mike for years about his skating habits, but he just won't listen. (to warn)
18. After Mike _____ an hour in the emergency room, the doctor examined him and announced that the skater was free to go. (to wait)
19. After today's skating trip ends, David _____ a total of 1,232 hours for his friend and _____ countless outdated magazines in the emergency room family area. (to wait, to read)
20. Grace _____ to speak to Mike ever since he declared that "a little thin ice" shouldn't scare anyone. (to refuse)

CORRECT FORM OF VERB: ANSWERS

- 16. **had been skating** or **had skated**. You have two actions in the past — the skating and the hearing. The two hours of skating came before the hearing, so you need past perfect tense. Either the plain or the progressive form works here also.
- 17. **has been warning** or **has warned**. The second half of the sentence indicates the present (*won't listen*), but you also have a hint of the past (*for years*). Present perfect is the best choice because it links past and present. I like the immediacy of progressive here (I can hear Diane's ranting), but plain present perfect is okay as well.
- 18. **had waited** or **had been waiting**. The waiting preceded the doctor's announcement, so you should use past perfect. Progressive adds a "you are there" feel but isn't necessary.
- 19. **will have waited, will have read**. The deadline in the sentence (*the end of today's trip*) is your clue for future perfect tense.
- 20. **has refused**. Notice the present-past link? Mike declared and Grace is acting now. Hence you need present perfect tense.

CORRECT FORM OF VERB: PERFECT TENSE

21. Mike, in a temper, pointed out that Grace's motorcycle _____ him to the hospital even more frequently than his skates. (to send)
22. In an effort to make peace, Kristin _____ quietly to both combatants before the conflict escalates. (to speak)
23. Despite years of practice, Tim _____ success only on rare occasions, but he keeps trying to resolve his brother's conflicts anyway. (to achieve)
24. At times Tim's conflict-resolution technique _____ of violent finger pokes in the fighters' ribs, but he is trying to become more diplomatic. (to consist)
25. After Mike _____ that his brother's wisest course of action was to "butt out," Tim simply ignored him. (to declare)

CORRECT FORM OF VERB: ANSWERS

- 21. **had sent.** The pointing and the hospital-sending are at two different times in the past, with the hospital occurring first. Go for past perfect for the earlier action.
- 22. **will have spoken.** The future perfect needs an end point (in this sentence, the end of the yelling) before which the action occurs.
- 23. **has achieved.** If he keeps trying, you have a present-tense idea that's connected to the past (despite years of practice and on rare occasions). Present perfect connects the present and past.
- 24. **has consisted.** This sentence has a present-tense clue (*at times*). The sentence tells you about the past (*at times*) and the present (*is trying*), so present perfect is the one you want.
- 25. **had declared.** The *after* at the beginning of the sentence is your clue that one action occurs before another. Because both are in the past, you need past perfect tense for the earlier action.



IRREGULAR VERB FORMS



IRREGULAR VERB FORMS

Irregular verbs stray from the usual -ed form in the past tense. The irregularity continues in a form called the past participle. (sang and sung instead of singed, for example). Here's a set of irregular problems to pickle your brain. Fill in the blanks with the correct irregular form, working from the verb (actually, the infinitive, the basic form of the verb family) indicated in parentheses. Check out the following example.

Q. With one leg 3 inches shorter than the other, Natalie seldom _____ into first base, even when the team was desperate for a base hit. (to slide)

A. **slid**. No -ed for this past tense! Slid is the irregular past form of to slide.

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS

26. If you discover a piece of pottery on the floor, look for Natalie, who has _____ many vases because of her tendency to dust far too emotionally. (to break)
27. Once Natalie _____ with sadness at her first glimpse of a dusty armchair. (to shake)
28. David, a duster himself, _____ a manual of daily furniture maintenance. (to write)
29. The manual, entitled Dust or Die, _____ to the top of the best-seller list. (to rise)
30. Nearly all the copies had been _____ by fanatical cleaners. (to buy)

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS: ANSWERS

- 26. broken.** The verb *to break* has two irregular forms, *broke* and *broken*.
- 27. shook.** *To shake* has two irregular forms, *shook* and *shaken*.
- 28. wrote or has written.** For correct writing, use *wrote* or *has written*.
- 29. rose or has risen.** Be sure to rise to the occasion and choose *rose* or *has risen*, not *rised*.
- 30. bought.** Let this verb remind you of other irregulars, including *caught*, *taught*, and *thought*. Here's a sentence to help you remember: I *thought* I was in trouble because I *caught* a cold when I *taught* that class of sneezing kids, but fortunately I had *bought* tissues.

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS

31. David once dusted the fire alarm so forcefully that it went off; the firefighters weren't amused because David had _____ the fire alarm a little too often. (to ring)
32. The fire chief promptly _____ to speak with the mayor about David's false alarm. (to go)
33. The mayor has _____ an investigation into a new category of offenses, "False Dust Alarms"; almost immediately, David _____ to protest. (to begin)
34. "I have _____ to a new low," sighed David. "I hear that Natalie has _____ a new hobby. Maybe I can get one too." (to sink, to find)
35. Natalie _____ David to a fly-catching meet, and soon his interest in grime _____ the dust. (to take, to bite)

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS: ANSWERS

- 31. **rung.** The bell *rings, rang, or has/had rung*.
- 32. **went.** Take a memo: I *go*, he *goes*, I *went*, and I *have or had gone*.
- 33. **begun, began.** The plain past tense form is *began*, and the form that combines with *has, have, or had* is *begun*.
- 34. **sunk, found.** To *sink* becomes *sank* in the past tense and *has or have sunk* in the perfect tenses. To *find* becomes *found* in both past and present/past perfect.
- 35. **took, bit.** These two forms are in simple past; the perfect forms use *taken* and *bitten*.

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS

36. Natalie, inspired by fly catching, _____ a tapestry with a delicate fly pattern. (to weave)
37. David, worried about Natalie's enthusiasm for winged pests, _____ help. (to seek)
38. "Leave the flies," _____ David. (to say)
39. "Never!" Natalie declared as she _____ her coffee. (to drink)
40. David soon _____ up on Natalie and her new hobby. (to give)

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS: ANSWERS

- 36. wove.** The past tense of *to weave* is *wove*.
- 37. sought.** This irregular form wandered far from the original. The past tense of *to seek* is *sought*.
- 38. said.** This irregular verb is the past tense of *to say*.
- 39. drank.** Three forms of this verb sound like a song to accompany a beer blast: *drink*, *drank*, and *drunk*. The middle form, which is past tense, is the one you want here. The form that combines with *has* and *have* (in case you ever need it) is *drunk*.
- 40. gave.** The verb *to give* becomes *gave* in the plain past tense (and *given* in the perfect tenses).

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS

41. Every day when Natalie _____, she thought about flies. (to wake)
42. Her friends avoided the fly cage, which _____ in her yard. (to stand)
43. Natalie _____ hours _____ watching WNET, which _____ fly catching tips. (to spend, to give)
44. Eventually, Natalie _____ to realize that fly catching _____ too much. (to come, to cost)
45. She and David _____ a new hobby. (to choose)

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS: ANSWERS

- 41. **woke.** The verb *to wake* changes to *woke* (plain past tense) or *woken* (with *has, have, or had*).
- 42. **stood.** This irregular form works for the plain past and the perfect forms of *to stand*.
- 43. **spent, gave.** *To spend* turns into *spent* in the plain past and perfect tenses. *To give* becomes *gave* in past tense.
- 44. **came or has come, cost.** Write it down: Natalie *came* or *has come*. Just to confuse you, the past tense of *to cost* is *cost* (in both the plain past tense and perfect tenses).
- 45. **chose.** They *chose* and we *have chosen*. No one *choosed*, ever!

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS

46. They _____ miniature houses out of paper that had been _____ out. (to build, to throw)
47. First, David _____ a floor plan for each house. (to draw)
48. Next, Natalie _____ “logs” from twisted paper strips. (to make)
49. Unfortunately, David _____ some dog food near the houses, and his dog _____ them. (to leave, to eat)
50. Natalie _____ betrayed and _____ with David about what Natalie called his “criminal carelessness.” (to feel, to fight)

IRREGULAR VERB FORMS: ANSWERS

- 46. **built, thrown.** Don't even consider *builded*. The correct past tense form is *built*. *To throw* becomes *threw* (plain past) or *thrown* (perfect tenses).
- 47. **drew.** You can't *drawed*. You either *drew* or *have/had drawn*.
- 48. **made.** *To make* changes into *made* for all past and perfect forms.
- 49. **left, ate.** Don't leave this section before you memorize this irregular form of *to leave*! The plain past form of *to eat* is *ate*. Opt for *eaten* when you have a helping verb.
- 50. **felt, fought.** You'll feel better when you know that *felt* works for plain past tense and the perfect tenses. *To fight* also has one form, *fought*, for both jobs.



FEEDBACK