

The Harold Syntax Guide to Verbs

Pre-Test

Directions: In the blank space, write a "T" if the statement is true and an "F" if the statement is false.

- ___ 1. Verbs express action and states of being.
- ___ 2. The ability to express past and future actions was important in the development of human cultures.
- ___ 3. There are seven major verb tenses.
- ___ 4. The three basic verb forms are present, past, and past participle.
- ___ 5. The past tense uses the past participle part.
- ___ 6. The "perfect" tenses are called perfect because the action is perfected or completed.
- ___ 7. A verb in the past perfect tense usually uses the past participle plus an auxiliary verb.
- ___ 8. A verb in the future perfect tense usually uses the past participle and one auxiliary verb, "will."
- ___ 9. The imperative mood states facts.
- ___ 10. The indicative mood states wishes, dreams, and possibilities.
- ___ 11. The potential mood states what might happen.
- ___ 12. The subjunctive mood is used for giving commands.
- ___ 13. The pronoun "you" is always the subject in subjunctive mood statements.
- ___ 14. In active voice statements, the subject of the sentence always performs the action.
- ___ 15. A transitive verb takes an object.

The Harold Syntax Guide to Verbs

Verb Tense

❖ Prof. Syntax reminder: To form the present tense, use the present principal part: She hides. To form the past tense, use the imperfect principal part: She hid. To form the future tense, use the present principal part plus the auxiliary verbs will or shall: She will hide. To form the present perfect tense, use the past participle plus the auxiliary verbs has or have: She has hidden. To form the past perfect tense, use the past participle plus the auxiliary verb had: She had hidden. To form the future perfect tense, use the past participle plus the auxiliary verbs will have: She will have hidden.

Directions: Fill in the blank with the proper verb formation.

1. They _____ . (Present tense of **to ride**)
2. All the choir members _____ joyously. (Past tense of **to sing**)
3. Bob and John said they _____ the house on summer vacation. (Future tense of **to paint**)
4. The realtors _____ the property seven times already. (Past perfect tense of **to show**)
5. Martin _____ the wood in the back fields. (Present perfect tense of **to chop**)
6. The playwright _____ the first two acts by the time the actors arrive. (Future perfect tense of **to write**)
7. Pilar _____ tears of joy when she saw her cousin. (Past tense of **to cry**)
8. He _____ six glasses of water a day since age four. (Present perfect tense of **to drink**)
9. Mrs. Smith's students _____ six novels by November. (Past perfect tense of **to read**)
10. She _____ 1,500 miles by the time she reaches L.A. (Future perfect tense of **to drive**)

The Harold Syntax Guide to Verbs

Mood

❖ **Prof. Syntax reminder:** The indicative mood is used to make statements of fact. The subjunctive mood expresses wishes, dreams and possibilities. The potential mood expresses what may or might happen. The imperative mood is used for giving commands.

Directions: Identify the mood of the underlined verbs by circling either A, B, C or D.

1. Button your coat.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
2. I may go to Hawaii next winter.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
3. If I were you, I'd study for the test.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
4. Our team won the track meet last Saturday.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
5. Turn off the computer.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
6. Final exams are June 9 and June 10.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
7. You go home right now.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
8. Nemesis will learn the four moods of verbs.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
9. Ramon might join the chess club.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative
10. If I were a teacher, I'd never assign homework.
 (A) indicative (B) subjunctive (C) potential (D) imperative

The Harold Syntax Guide to Verbs

Voice and Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

❖ **Prof. Syntax reminder:** With active voice verbs, the subject is the performer of the action. With passive voice verbs, the subject is passively affected by the action. An action verb with a direct object is a transitive verb. An action verb without a direct object is an intransitive verb.

Part I

Directions: Rewrite the passive voice constructions below so they become active.

1. The horse was saddled by Joan. _____
2. Grocery shopping was done by Ted. _____
3. The book was read by Sung Lee. _____
4. Dinner was prepared by Dad. _____
5. The fields were planted by the farmer. _____

Part II

Directions: Put a "T" on the line next to the sentence if it is transitive and an "I" if it is intransitive.

1. _____ Myra polished the silver for her mother.
2. _____ During the storm Ted slept fitfully.
3. _____ The old man smiled.
4. _____ They carried the canoe to the water.
5. _____ Jamie skipped down the sidewalk.
6. _____ The kindergarten teacher tied Billy's shoe.
7. _____ His jeans ripped.
8. _____ José bought a new tee shirt.
9. _____ She opened her present.
10. _____ Jerry blushed.

The Harold Syntax Guide to Verbs

Post-Test

Part I

Directions: Write the correct verb tense on the line provided. The six tenses are present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect.

- | | |
|--|--|
| | 1. He has eaten every day this week. |
| | 2. She will build the snow fort. |
| | 3. They will have slept for eight hours. |
| | 4. You talked on the phone. |
| | 5. She had flown to four continents. |

Part II

Directions: Write the correct mood of the underlined verbs on the lines provided. The four moods are indicative, subjunctive, potential, and imperative.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| | 1. Clean your room. |
| | 2. He might win the election. |
| | 3. If I were hungry, I'd eat salad. |
| | 4. The store had a sale. |
| | 5. She may go to college. |

Part III

Directions: On the space provided, write an "A" if the sentence has an active construction and a "P" if it has a passive construction.

- | | |
|--|--|
| | 1. May Ling drank the glass of milk. |
| | 2. The apples were picked by Michelle. |
| | 3. She hit a home run. |
| | 4. Mom complained. |
| | 5. Juan changed the tire. |

Part IV

Directions: On the space provided, write a "T" if the sentence is transitive and an "I" if it is intransitive.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| | 1. Carmen danced beautifully. |
| | 2. Tom cleaned the basement. |
| | 3. Ricardo climbed the mountain. |
| | 4. Joe rides the bike. |
| | 5. The teacher graded the papers. |

The Harold Syntax Guide to Verbs

Discussion Questions

Part I: Verb Tense

1. What else, besides action, do verbs express?
2. What could humans have once they learned to express past actions?
3. What are the six major tenses?
4. What are the three principal parts of a verb?
5. State the six tenses of "to hide."

Part II: Mood

1. What are the four moods?
2. What does the indicative mood indicate?
3. What does the subjunctive mood indicate?
4. What does the potential mood indicate?
5. What does the imperative mood indicate?

Part III: Active and Passive Voice/Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

1. What is the performer of the action in active voice verbs?
2. What do all passive voice verbs imply?
3. Which voice is more vivid and direct?
4. Give an example of a sentence with a passive voice verb.
5. Give an example of a sentence with an active voice verb.
6. What does a transitive verb always take?
7. Does a sentence with an intransitive verb ever have an object?
8. Give an example of a sentence with a transitive verb.
9. Give an example of a sentence with an intransitive verb.