

# INFORMATION SHEET 3

## Verb Overview

### 1. WHAT IS A VERB?

A verb is a word that tells what people/things **DO** (action verb) or what they **ARE** (linking verb).

### 2. REGULAR VERBS

Regular verbs add **-ED** to form the past tense (no other spelling change--they're predictable!)

walk → walked    call → called    help → helped    ask → asked    add → added

### 3. IRREGULAR VERBS

Irregular verbs have to be memorized. There is no way to predict how they form the past or past participle.

eat → ate/has eaten    drive → drove/has driven    ring → rang/has rung    see → saw/has seen

### 4. PRESENT TENSE (TIME) Present tense = happens regularly or is a fact.

Verbs that match *plurals* have **NO s**; verbs that match *singulars* **DO add s**. (Just the opposite of nouns!)

1                      2+                      1                      2+  
Our dog sleeps.    Our dogs sleep. / The car races.    The cars race. / We always eat at noon. / The sun rises.

### 5. LINKING VERBS

Words that tell what something or someone is are called **linking verbs**. Linking verbs *identify* or *describe* the subject of a sentence--person or thing being talked about. (See Information Sheet 4 for more on linking verbs.)

Their new car **is** red.    We **felt** cold at the football game.    She **became** a pilot.

### 6. ACTION VERBS

What someone or something *does* (physically or mentally) is expressed by an **action verb**.

They **ate** lunch with their friends.    We **should write** application letters tomorrow.  
Customers **will appreciate** value.    I **recognized** them.

### 7. INFINITIVE (To + Verb)

*What to remember about an infinitive: It is **never** used as the verb in a sentence. (To before it? Ignore it!)*

The **base form** (or infinitive) of a verb is like the base price of a car--it's the one that's modified or changed in some way to create all the other forms of that verb. It is made up of **to + the verb**.

to be (verb forms: *is, am, are, was, etc.*)    to have (forms: *have, has, had*)    to call    to eat

### 8. HELPING VERBS

A **helping** verb plus one or more other verbs forms a verb phrase--(verb = verb phrase; they mean the same thing). The following words are helping verbs when they are combined with other verbs. Learn them:

Main verbs OR helping verbs ↓	am	have	can	shall	↑ Helping verbs only
	is	has	could	should	
	are	had			
	was		may	will	
	were	do	might	would	
	be	does	must		
	being	did			
	been				

We **should have started** sooner.    They **might have been going** later.

I **am** definitely not **going** to the store.    He **has** already **come** back.

**Tip:** Memorize the 8 being verbs. For the rest, remember the sentence, "Has Clyde done my school work?" The first letters of the words can remind you of helping verbs (H-have, has, had; C-can, could; D-do, does, did; M-may, might must; S-shall, should; W-will, would)

Notice that describing words are not part of the verb. Don't include *always, already, just, never, not, now, often, really, soon*, and other adverbs (which often end in *-ly*) in verb phrases.

## FORMS OF IRREGULAR VERBS

PRESENT Basic verb form	PAST No helping verbs	PAST WITH HELPER Use <u>with</u> have, has, had, was, etc. **	PRESENT Basic verb form	PAST No helping verbs	PAST WITH HELPER Use <u>with</u> have, has, had, was, etc. **
become	became	have become	lose	lost	have lost
begin	began	has begun	mean	meant	has meant
bite	bit	had bitten	meet	met	had met
bleed	bled	have bled	pay	paid	have paid
blow	blew	has blown	put	put	has put
break	broke	had broken	read	read	had read
<b>bring</b>	<b>brought</b>	<b>have brought</b>	<b>ride</b>	<b>rode</b>	<b>have ridden</b>
buy	bought	has bought	ring	rang	has rung
catch	caught	had caught	<b>rise</b>	<b>rose</b>	<b>have risen</b>
<b>choose</b>	<b>chose</b>	<b>have chosen</b>	<b>run</b>	<b>ran</b>	<b>have run</b>
come	came	has come	say	said	has said
cost	cost	had cost	<b>see</b>	<b>saw</b>	<b>have seen</b>
do	did	have done	sell	sold	has sold
draw	drew	has drawn	set	set	had set
<b>drink</b>	<b>drank</b>	<b>have drunk</b>	shake	shook	have shaken
drive	drove	has driven	shoot	shot	has shot
eat	ate	had eaten	<b>shrink</b>	<b>shrank</b>	<b>have shrunk</b>
fall	fell	have fallen	shut	shut	had shut
feed	fed	has fed	sing	sang	have sung
feel	felt	had felt	sink	sank	has sunk
find	found	have found	sit	sat	had sat
fly	flew	has flown	sleep	slept	have slept
forget	forgot	had forgotten	speak	spoke	has spoken
freeze	froze	have frozen	spend	spent	had spent
get	got	has gotten	stand	stood	have stood
give	gave	had given	steal	stole	has stolen
<b>go</b>	<b>went</b>	<b>have gone</b>	swear	swore	had sworn
grow	grew	has grown	sweep	swept	have swept
have	had	had had	<b>swim</b>	<b>swam</b>	<b>have swum</b>
hear	heard	have heard	take	took	has taken
hide	hid	has hidden	teach	taught	had taught
hold	held	had held	tear	tore	have torn
hurt	hurt	have hurt	think	thought	has thought
keep	kept	has kept	throw	threw	had thrown
know	knew	had known	wake	woke	have woken
leave	left	have left	wear	wore	has worn
lay (put, place)	laid	has laid	win	won	had won
<b>lie</b> (rest, recline)	<b>lay</b>	<b>have lain</b>	write	wrote	have written

\*\* Be careful when using the past participle--the form that takes a helping verb. Memorize verbs that sound unfamiliar, especially the ones in **bold italics** (they're often misused in speaking). "I **have drunk** too much coffee and "She **has swum** ten laps" *ARE* correct in writing even though you may not be used to hearing them.