

## VERBS 1: Subjects and objects

A verb is often described as a ‘doing’ word, one that expresses an action or what is happening, for example:

*eats*                  *ran*                  *is playing*

A verb can also express a process or a state, for example:

*is*                          *knew*                  *becomes*

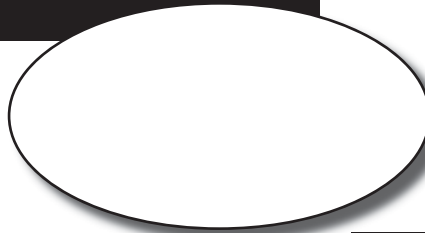
Verbs are labelled *verb* in *Chambers School Dictionary*. For more information on verbs or for help in doing these exercises, see the **Language Workshop** panel on **Verbs** in *Chambers School Dictionary*.

## SPOT THE SUBJECT, SPOT THE OBJECT

Read the following sentences and underline the verbs. Then find the subject of the verb and write it in the subject circle. Then find the object(s) (if there are any) and write it in the object circle.

1. The sun was shining.
2. Jane ate an apple.
3. She gave me the book.
4. I played tennis last night.
5. The old man was limping.
6. I know her sister.
7. I have seen Niagara Falls.
8. The children were playing.

Subject



Object



Now write some sentences of your own. Write a sentence in which the verb has no object, a sentence in which the verb has one object, and a sentence in which the verb has two objects.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBS 2: Irregular past tenses

Many simple past tenses are formed by adding **–ed** to the verb, for example:

play – **played**

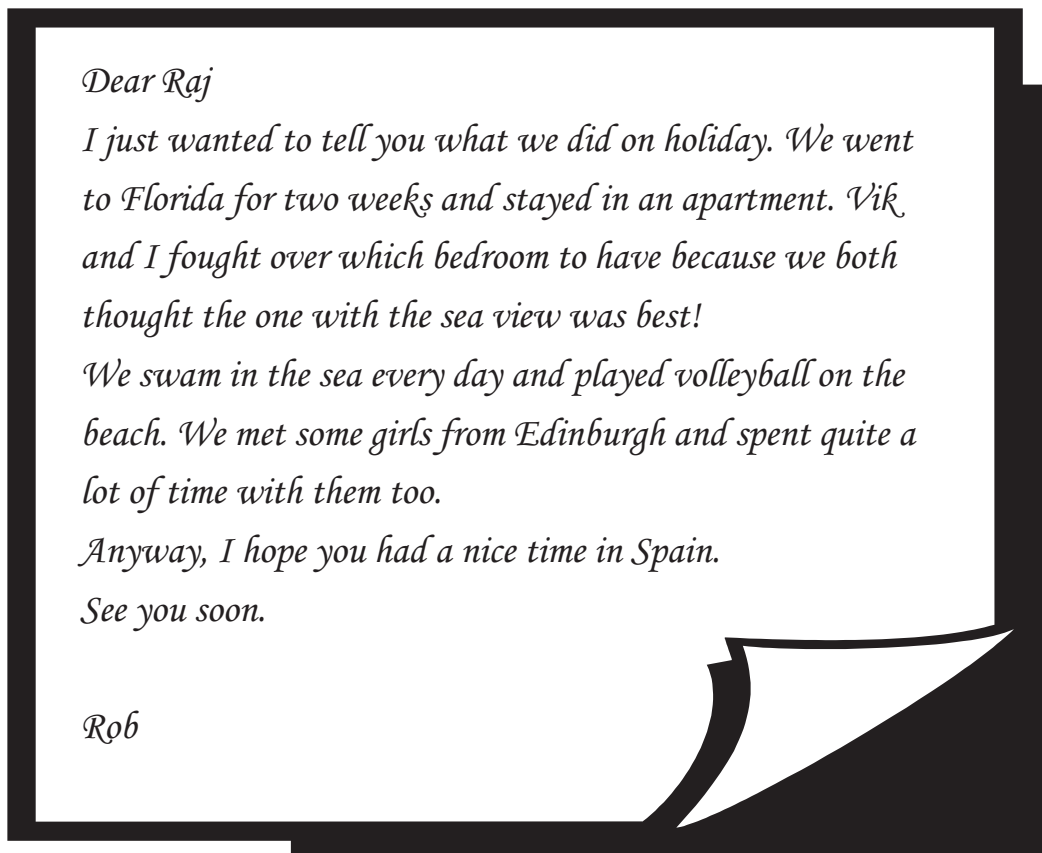
Sometimes, though, verbs are irregular and do not follow this pattern, for example:

go – **went**      chug – **chugged**      dig – **dug**

*Chambers School Dictionary* shows information about irregular tenses at the end of an entry, printed in blue typeface. For more information on verb tenses see the **Language Workshop** panels on **Tense** and **Simple, continuous and perfect** in *Chambers School Dictionary*.

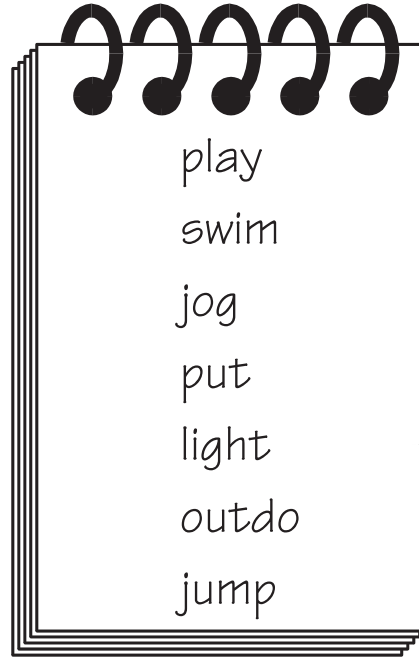
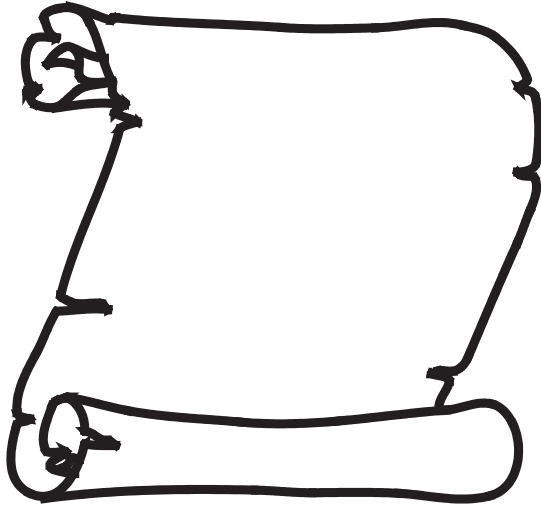
## FIND THE IRREGULAR PAST TENSES

You have received the following note from your friend. Circle all the irregular past tenses that you can see.



## IRREGULAR BANNERS

Now look at the verbs written on the notepad. Decide which ones have an irregular past tense and write them on the scroll.



Now write a sentence using each of the irregular verbs in its past tense.

## VERBS 3: Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary verbs are verbs which are used with other verbs that carry the main meaning. The most common auxiliary verbs are 'be' and 'have' which are used with other verbs to show tense.

I **am** eating an apple.

Modal verbs are a type of auxiliary verb that show what can, should, or will happen:

You **should** get some rest.

I **must** do my homework.

In *Chambers School Dictionary*, the information is written into the definition as 'used with another verb...' or 'used with other verbs...'. For more information on auxiliary verbs, see the **Language Workshop** panel on **Auxiliary verbs** in *Chambers School Dictionary*.

## SPOT THE AUXILIARY

Read the following sentences and underline the auxiliary or modal verbs.

1. You ought to do your homework.
2. I must get my Mum a birthday present.
3. I have been reading a really good book.
4. I had forgotten to bring my PE kit.
5. I might go to the party, I'm not sure.
6. Would you mind helping me?
7. Do you like this music?
8. Can you read music?
9. We could go to the cinema.
10. I shall tell you later.

Now write five sentences of your own, using auxiliary or modal verbs.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBS 4: Using inflected forms

Inflected forms of a verb are used to create different tenses and indicate when something happens or when someone did something.

For more information on this, or for help in doing these exercises, see the **Language Workshop** panels on **Simple, continuous and perfect** and **Tense** in *Chambers School Dictionary*.

### CORRECT THAT WORK!

Imagine you are a teacher. A student in your class has handed in the following work. Write the correct form of each sentence in the box below.

1. She has went to the shops.
2. We was very tired.
3. I've fell down the stairs twice today.
4. I weren't very happy.
5. She did went earlier.
6. She is gone out.

## CONVERT THE TENSE

Convert the sentences below into a simple past and past perfect tense.

1. I am eating a sandwich.

I ate a sandwich./I have eaten a sandwich.

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2. She is singing a song.

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3. Suki plays tennis at the weekends.

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4. I'm meeting my boyfriend.

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5. I am watching television.

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6. I swim every day.

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Now write a short passage in a past tense to describe what you did on your last holiday.