

Verb Agreement and Tense

SAT Intensive Workshop 2019

S-V Agreement

- ▶ Subject and verb must agree in number.
 - ▶ “The **child** plays outside.”
 - ▶ “The **children** play outside.”

S-V

Agreement:

Non-standard cases

- ▶ Compound subject -> plural verb, unless both subjects refer to the same thing, or if they go together regardless.
 - ▶ “Sweatshirts and joggers are popular right now.”
 - ▶ “Michael and I talk about magic tricks.”
 - ▶ “Fish and chips is a common English meal.”
 - ▶ “The actor and philanthropist is giving a speech today.”

S-V

Agreement:

Non-standard cases

- ▶ Compound subjects with one plural and one singular in neither...nor or either...or:
 - ▶ **Agree with the closest subject to the verb.**
 - ▶ “Neither **he** nor I am good at magic tricks.”
 - ▶ “Either my little **sisters** or my **dad** is going to a concert.”
 - ▶ “Either my **dad** or my little **sisters** are going to a concert.”

S-V Agreement: Non-standard cases

- ▶ Countable indefinite pronouns as subject:
 - ▶ Agree with the count of the pronoun.
 - ▶ “Somebody is at the door.”
 - ▶ “Everybody likes listening to music.”
 - ▶ “Few dislike a bright blue sky.”
 - ▶ “Several were adopted from the animal shelter today.”
- ▶ Uncountable indefinite pronouns as subject:
 - ▶ Use the singular form of the verb.

S-V Agreement: Non-standard cases

- ▶ Collective nouns:
 - ▶ Singular or plural depending on context.
 - ▶ “The **committee** meets in the conference room every week.”
 - ▶ “The **audience** is getting restless.”
 - ▶ “The **committee** have gone their separate ways for a vacation.”

Verb Tenses

Verb tense tells the reader when an action occurred.

6 important tenses for the SAT:

Past

Present

Future

Past perfect

Imperfect past

Present perfect

Past

- ▶ Used to talk about events that occurred *and were completed* in the past.
- ▶ Examples:
 - ▶ “I walked to the park yesterday.”
 - ▶ “The car sped past the police checkpoint.”
 - ▶ “I proctored an SAT exam last week.
 - ▶ “I won a math competition in middle school.”

Present

- ▶ Used to talk about actions that are currently happening or that continually happen.
 - ▶ “You are looking at this presentation.”
 - ▶ “Nothing travels faster than light.”
 - ▶ “The second hand ticks slowly.”
 - ▶ “He swims daily.”

Verb Conjugation

- ▶ Present
- ▶ Past: add -d, -ed for regular verbs.
- ▶ Past participle: used right after has/have/had, same as past conjugation for regular verbs.

Regular Verb Conjugation

Present	Past	Past Participle
Walk	Walked	Walked
Wipe	Wiped	Wiped
Step	Stepped	Stepped
Print	Printed	Printed
Type	Typed	Typed
Pack	Packed	Packed
Travel	Traveled	Traveled

Irregular Verb Conjugation

Present	Past	Past Participle
Drink	Drank	Drunk
Eat	Ate	Eaten
Think	Thought	Thought
Swim	Swam	Swum
Run	Ran	Run
Write	Wrote	Written
Hurt	Hurt	Hurt

Future

- ▶ Used to talk about actions that will be completed in the future.
 - ▶ Add “will”, “might”, “shall”, etc. as helping verbs. Use the present conjugation of the verb.
 - ▶ “I will sleep when I get home today.”
 - ▶ “I shall eat all of my lunch.”
 - ▶ “I might get fat if I eat the entire bag of chocolates.”
- ▶ Can also talk about the future from a time in the past.
 - ▶ “Alexander the Great thought he would be the greatest ruler of all time.”
 - ▶ “Kawhi thought he would win the championship, but it only happened because everyone on the Warriors’ was injured.”

Past Perfect

- ▶ Sometimes called remote past.
- ▶ Use the past participle conjugation of the verb.
- ▶ Used to talk about something that happened in the past but *has been completed*.
 - ▶ “I had studied, but I still didn’t do well on my exam.”
 - ▶ “Gossip didn’t interest her because she had heard it already.”
 - ▶ “He had swum daily before breaking his back in a car accident.”

Imperfect Past

- ▶ Used to talk about actions that were continually happening in the past.
 - ▶ Used right after was/were and conjugate the verb by adding -ing at the end.
 - ▶ “I was grading papers.”
 - ▶ “She was intensely studying for the SAT.”
 - ▶ “They were missing at school, so they got detention.”

Present Perfect

- ▶ Used to talk about actions that began in the past but continue in the present.
 - ▶ Comes right after have/has - use the past participle conjugation of the verb.
 - ▶ “I have played the piano for my entire life.”
 - ▶ “They have expressed their desire to go outside.”
 - ▶ “She has eaten too many chocolates.”

Voice

- ▶ Active voice.
 - ▶ The subject performs the action.
- ▶ Passive voice.
 - ▶ The subject does *not* perform the action.