

The Principal Parts of Verbs

7a. The four principal parts of a verb are the **base form**, the **present participle**, the **past**, and the **past participle**.

BASE FORM	paint	catch	be	take
PRESENT PARTICIPLE	[is] painting	[is] catching	[is] being	[is] taking
PAST	painted	caught	was, were	took
PAST PARTICIPLE	[has] painted	[has] caught	[has] been	[has] taken

EXERCISE A For each of the following sets of verbs, underline the form that is specified in italics.

Example *past participle* 1. drive, (is) driving, drove, (has) driven

present participle 1. whisper, (was) whispering, whispered, (have) whispered

past participle 2. wear, (is) wearing, wore, (has) worn

base 3. enumerate, (is) enumerating, enumerated, (had) enumerated

present participle 4. make, (was) making, made, (has) made

past 5. announce, (is) announcing, announced, (have) announced

EXERCISE B On the line provided, identify the form of each of the following verbs by writing *B* for *base*, *P-P* for *present participle*, *PT* for *past*, or *PT-P* for *past participle*.

Examples P-P 1. (were) laughing

PT 2. sang

_____ 6. (is) traveling

_____ 7. tore

_____ 8. (have) spoken

_____ 9. blink

_____ 10. (had) scheduled

_____ 11. (is) walking

_____ 12. saw

_____ 13. activate

_____ 14. (has) rung

_____ 15. was

_____ 16. (are) saving

_____ 17. swim

_____ 18. (have) surfed

_____ 19. (is) grinning

_____ 20. took

_____ 21. (is) pouring

_____ 22. (has) swung

_____ 23. prepare

_____ 24. wrote

_____ 25. (was) taught

Regular Verbs

7b. A **regular verb** generally forms its past and past participle by adding **–d** or **–ed** to the base form.

A few regular verbs have alternate past and past participle forms that end in **–t**.

BASE FORM	save	enjoy	burn
PRESENT PARTICIPLE	[is] saving	[is] enjoying	[is] burning
PAST	saved	enjoyed	burned or burnt
PAST PARTICIPLE	[has] saved	[has] enjoyed	[has] burned or burnt

EXERCISE A On the line provided, write the past or past participle of the verb in parentheses to complete each of the following sentences correctly.

Example 1. Before the trip, I had loaded film in my camera. (*load*)

- The bus to Tulum _____ at noon. (*arrive*)
- Lush jungle _____ us. (*surround*)
- The ruins of Tulum _____ like a huge castle. (*look*)
- Scholars have _____ about when the Mayans built it. (*argue*)
- The builders had _____ beautiful feathered serpents. (*carve*)
- They had also _____ many pictures on the walls. (*paint*)
- A fortified area called the Castillo _____ the ocean. (*face*)
- We _____ up on one of the lower platforms. (*climb*)
- Everyone _____ the beautiful wall decorations. (*admire*)
- Instead of taking the bus home, we _____ by boat. (*return*)

EXERCISE B Revise each sentence below by crossing out the present tense verb and writing above it the form specified in parentheses. You may need to add *has*, *have*, or *had*.

Example 1. Carla ~~likes~~ ^{had liked} her science teacher. (*past participle*)

- Frantically, they search the attic and basement. (*past*)
- Unfortunately, the speaker strays from the main point. (*past*)
- Chen answers Sue's letter within a week. (*past participle*)
- Rebecca finally calms the frightened neighbor. (*past participle*)
- Madeline gleefully leaps over puddles of melted snow. (*past*)