

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Your Narrative Compass: 9th Grade Irregular Verbs Quiz

Correctly identify and apply ten past tense verb forms found in high school level literature and professional communication.

1. In her latest novel, the protagonist ____ the heavy burden of her family's secrets for decades.

Answer: A) bore

The past tense of the verb 'bear' (to carry) is 'bore'. 'Beared' is not a word, and 'born' is the past participle.

2. The past tense of the verb 'forecast' (e.g., in a business report) can remain 'forecast' without adding '-ed'.

Answer: A) True

Verbs like 'forecast', 'cast', and 'broadcast' commonly remain the same in their past tense form in professional English.

3. Complete the sentence: After the earthquake, the foundation of the old library ____ during the reconstruction.

Answer: A) sank

'Sank' is the simple past tense of 'sink'. 'Sunk' is the past participle used with helping verbs like 'has' or 'had'.

4. Identify the correct form: By the time the curtain rose, the lead actor had ____ his lines perfectly.

Answer: C) spoken

When using the past perfect tense ('had'), you must use the past participle 'spoken' rather than the simple past 'spoke'.

5. Which of the following sentences utilizes the correct past tense form of 'swing'?

Answer: B) The pendulum swung back and forth.

'Swung' is both the past tense and past participle of 'swing'. 'Swang' is a common colloquial error but is grammatically incorrect.

6. The past tense of 'mean' is 'meant', which involves a vowel sound change even though the spelling only adds a 't'.

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Answer: A) True

'Mean' becomes 'meant'. It is irregular because it does not follow the standard '-ed' suffix rule.

7. During the colonial era, many explorers ____ across the Atlantic in search of new trade routes.

Answer: B) strove

While 'strived' is gaining some acceptance, 'strove' is the traditional and academically preferred irregular past tense of 'strive'.

8. Fill the gap: The witness ____ an oath before giving her testimony in the courtroom.

Answer: A) swore

'Swore' is the simple past tense of 'swear'. 'Sworn' is the past participle.

9. Select the correct form: The fragile peace treaty was ____ after the border dispute escalated.

Answer: C) broken

In passive voice constructions ('was ____'), the past participle 'broken' must be used.

10. The verb 'burst' becomes 'bursted' when describing an event in the past, such as a balloon popping.

Answer: B) False

'Burst' is an unchanging irregular verb. The past tense is 'burst', not 'bursted'.