

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Wrangle the Weirdest Verbs: A College Grammar Challenge

Can you distinguish between archaic remnants and modern usage? Analyze nuances in strong verb conjugations for academic and professional writing.

1. In formal academic writing, which sentence correctly utilizes the past participle of a verb undergoing a 'strong' Germanic change?

Answer: B) The artifacts were hidden beneath layers of sediment.

The verb 'hide' follows the pattern 'hide/hid/hidden'. Option A should be 'striven', C should be 'shrunk', and D should be 'sworn'.

2. Choose the correct verbal sequence for the following sentence: 'After the subaquatic volcanic eruption, the island ____ from the sea, but the local ecosystem ____ the brunt of the ashfall.'

Answer: C) rose / bore

'Rose' is the simple past of 'rise' (intransitive), and 'bore' is the simple past of 'bear' (to carry or endure).

3. True or False: The verb 'to broadcast' is a 'weak' verb derivative, making it grammatically acceptable in many style guides to use 'broadcast' as both the past tense and past participle.

Answer: A) True

Standard English allows 'broadcast' to remain unchanged in the past tense/participle, though 'broadcasted' is increasingly common in casual usage.

4. Which of the following sentences utilizes the past participle of 'slay' in a way that respects its historical irregular roots?

Answer: D) The dragon had been slain before the king arrived.

The conjugation for 'slay' is slay/slew/slain. 'Slayed' is generally reserved for the slang meaning of making someone laugh.

5. Fill in the blank with the appropriate form: 'Despite the pressure, the whistleblower ____ the truth throughout the deposition.'

Answer: C) spoke

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'Spoke' is the correct simple past form; 'spake' is archaic and 'spoken' requires an auxiliary verb.

6. True or False: The past tense of the verb 'cleave' (meaning to split apart) can be either 'cleft,' 'clove,' or 'cleaved' depending on the regional variety of English and context.

Answer: A) True

'Cleave' is a rare verb with multiple acceptable irregular and regular past tense forms.

7. Identify the sentence that correctly utilizes the past participle of 'stride' and 'dwell'.

Answer: A) He has stridden across the stage and dwelt on the tragedy.

'Stridden' is the past participle of 'stride' (stride/strode/stridden) and 'dwelt' is a standard irregular past participle for 'dwell'.

8. Complete the sentence: 'The bells were ____ at midnight, signaling that the treaty had been ____.'

Answer: B) rung / written

Passive voice requires the past participle: 'rung' (ring/rang/rung) and 'written' (write/wrote/written).

9. Which sentence demonstrates the correct use of the irregular verb 'shrink' in the past tense without an auxiliary?

Answer: B) The fabric shrank after the first wash.

The simple past of 'shrink' is 'shrank'. 'Shrunk' is the past participle used with 'has/have/had'.

10. True or False: The verb 'to plead' has two acceptable past tense forms: the regular 'pleaded' and the irregular 'pled'.

Answer: A) True

Both 'pleaded' and 'pled' are recognized in diverse English dialects, with 'pleaded' often preferred in legal contexts.