

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: When Verbs Rebel: An 8th Grade Quest Through Linguistic Irregularity

Students analyze perfect aspect shifts and evaluate morphological patterns in complex sentences involving archaic and modern irregular verb forms.

1. In the context of a historical narrative, which sentence correctly utilizes the past participle to denote a completed action before another past action?

Answer: B) The architect had built the cathedral before the rebellion began.

The verb 'build' is irregular; its past participle is 'built'. When forming the past perfect tense (had + past participle), 'built' must be used to show the sequence of events.

2. Despite the captain's warnings, the crew _____ the heavy cargo into the depths of the Atlantic to save the sinking vessel.

Answer: B) flung

'Fling' is an irregular verb that follows a vowel-shift pattern from 'i' to 'u'. The correct simple past form is 'flung'.

3. The sentence 'The diplomat has forborne any public comment during the negotiations' correctly uses the past participle of 'forbear'.

Answer: A) True

'Forbear' is a sophisticated irregular verb. Its principal parts are forbear (present), forbore (past), and forborne (past participle).

4. Analyze the following sentence: 'The serpent slinked through the grass.' Is the verb usage appropriate for formal academic writing?

Answer: B) No; the correct irregular past tense is 'slunk'.

'Slink' is an irregular verb. While 'slinked' is sometimes seen in informal contexts, 'slunk' is the traditionally correct irregular past tense form.

5. By the time the sun rose, the frost had _____ the delicate petals of the winter garden.

Answer: C) smitten

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The verb 'smite' is highly irregular (smite, smote, smitten). In the past perfect tense, the past participle 'smitten' is required.

6. In the sentence 'The witness has sworn to tell the truth,' the verb 'sworn' is functioning as the past participle of an irregular verb.

Answer: A) True

'Swear' is an irregular verb (swear, swore, sworn). The past participle 'sworn' is correctly used here with the auxiliary 'has' for the present perfect tense.

7. Which of the following sentences correctly utilizes an irregular verb that remains unchanged in its past tense form?

Answer: B) The government thrust the new policy upon the public last week.

'Thrust' is a 'zero-inflection' irregular verb, meaning its present, past, and past participle forms are all 'thrust'.

8. After the marathon, the athlete's muscles had _____ so much that he could barely walk to the podium.

Answer: C) swollen

While 'swelled' exists as a past tense, 'swollen' is the traditional irregular past participle used in the perfect tense or as an adjective.

9. Choose the sentence that correctly uses the past tense of 'tread'.

Answer: B) The explorers trod carefully across the thin ice.

The simple past of the irregular verb 'tread' is 'trod'. 'Trodden' is the past participle.

10. The verb 'weave' has two meanings; when referring to making cloth, the irregular past tense is 'wove'.

Answer: A) True

For fabric, 'weave' becomes 'wove' (past) and 'woven' (past participle). However, when meaning to move in and out of traffic, 'weaved' is often accepted as a regular form.