

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Vexing Verbs: A 7th Grade Irregular Inflections Challenge

Scholars analyze morphological shifts and resolve tense inconsistencies within complex narrative contexts to perfect their command of non-standard verb patterns.

1. Which sentence correctly employs the past participle to express a completed action in the past perfect tense?

Answer: C) The messenger had borne the news through the treacherous mountain pass.

The verb 'bear' has an irregular past participle 'borne' when meaning to carry. 'Bore' is the simple past tense form.

2. Identify the error in tense shift: 'The architect drew the blueprint, but the contractor has misunderstanding the dimensions.'

Answer: B) The word 'misunderstanding' should be 'misunderstood'.

For the present perfect tense (has + past participle), the irregular verb 'misunderstand' must become 'misunderstood'.

3. True or False: In the sentence 'The captain has slunk away in defeat,' the verb form is used correctly.

Answer: A) True

The verb 'slink' follows a vowel-shift pattern: slink (present), slunk (past), and slunk (past participle).

4. Evaluate which sentence uses the most accurate irregular verb form for a formal report on a chemical reaction.

Answer: C) The compound has begun to solidify after several hours.

The verb 'begin' transforms from 'began' (past) to 'begun' (past participle). Perfect tenses require 'begun'.

5. Choose the correct verb string to complete this sequence: Yesterday I ___ (weave) the fabric; previously, I have ___ (weave) many similar patterns.

Answer: B) wove / woven

'Weave' is a complex irregular verb where the simple past is 'wove' and the past participle is 'woven'.

6. True or False: The past participle of 'forecast' can be either 'forecast' or 'forecasted' depending on the stylistic preference, but 'forecast' is traditionally preferred in journalism.

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Answer: A) True

Compound verbs based on 'cast' (like broadcast or forecast) often remain unchanged in the past and past participle forms.

7. Which of these sentences uses the subjunctive mood correctly with an irregular verb?

Answer: B) If he were to go, he would see the monument.

The irregular verb 'be' uses 'were' in the subjunctive mood for hypothetical situations, regardless of the subject's number.

8. In the sentence 'The detective ___ (tread) carefully over the evidence,' which form is the correct simple past tense?

Answer: D) trod

The simple past of 'tread' is 'trod', while 'trodden' is the past participle.

9. Select the sentence where the verb 'shrink' is used correctly in the past tense.

Answer: B) The wool sweater shrank in the hot dryer.

Similar to 'sing' and 'drink', 'shrink' uses 'shrank' for the simple past and 'shrunk' for the past participle.

10. True or False: In the sentence 'The bells had tolled, yet no one came,' the verb 'to toll' is an irregular verb.

Answer: B) False

'Toll' is a regular verb (toll/tolled/tolled). It is often confused with irregulars like 'ring' or 'sing' because of the context of sound.