

REVISION OF GRAMMAR

Verbs

A quick reminder:

When we want to describe an action, we use a **verb**.

Here are some examples:

Tom **ran** around and **shouted**.

He **broke** things. He never **did** what his mother **said**.

One night, he was **playing** outside.

His mother had **told** him to **come** inside, but he didn't **listen**.

Suddenly, the Bogeyman **appeared**.

He **grabbed** Tom and **stuffed** him into his bag.

He **tied** up the bag and **took** him home.



From *The Bogeyman*, Scary stories

The rules for using verbs

Rule 1: Every sentence must have a verb. Look at the sentences above. The verbs are all in bold type. Every sentence has *at least* one verb in it.

Rule 2: The verb must agree (or match) the **subject of the sentence** – this is the person, place, thing or idea that is *doing or being something*. For example:

Tom **ran** around and **shouted**. He **broke** things.

He never **did** what his mother **said**. One night, he **was playing** outside.

The subject of these sentences (the person doing something) is **Tom**.

All the *verbs* have to agree with when Tom did all these things. This is called 'verb tense'.

There are three main types of tense:

1. *Tom is running.* It's happening *now* so it's **present tense**.
2. *Tom ran.* It happened *in the past* so it's **past tense**.
3. *Tom will run.* It will happen *in the future* so it's **future tense**.

You can see that the first verb used in the passage above is '*ran*', so we know it is the second type of verb tense – **past tense**. This means **all the verbs** in the story need to be in **past tense** – *shouted, broke, did, said, was playing*.

EXERCISE 1

Here are some more sentences from the story *The Bogeyman* but the verbs are written in present tense. Can you change them to **past tense**?

1. When the Bogeyman (gets) _____ to his place, he (pulls) _____ Tom out of the bag. "Here is our supper, my dear," he (says) _____. And he (laughs) _____.
2. Tom (looks) _____ around. He (is) _____ in a horrible place. It (is) _____ dark and it (smells) _____ awful. At this point the Bogeyman's wife (comes) _____ in. She (is) _____ almost as ugly as him. She (pokes) _____ Tom in the ribs.
3. Tom (looks) _____ at Mrs Bogeyman. She (licks) _____ her lips and (smiles) _____ a horrible smile.
4. Off Tom went, and he (runs) _____ all the way home. When he (gets) _____ there he (locks) _____ himself in.
5. Tom (forgets) _____ his promise to be good. He (runs) _____ around and (shouts) _____. He (breaks) _____ things.
6. "YOU!" the Bogeyman (snarls) _____, holding Tom close to his face to see him better. "You are the boy who (tricks) _____ us!"

7. In (walks) _____ Mrs Bogeyman. "YOU! You (lies) _____ to me."
8. The Bogeyman (sits) _____ on the sofa and (watches) _____ the water boil.
9. Tom (looks) _____ around. He (grabs) _____ a large bone lying under the sofa. He (pulls) _____ off his sock and shoe.
10. Tom (sticks) _____ out the bone with his sock and shoe on it. The Bogeyman (gets) _____ a chopper. There (is) _____ a horrible sound of breaking bone.

EXERCISE 2

The following sentences have a selection of possible verbs. Circle the one that uses the correct verb tense.

1. "How dare you say that!" yell/yelling/yelled/will yell my little brother.
2. We goes/go/going/went to the zoo with our teachers last week.
3. The kangaroos at the Wildlife Park is/are/am/have been very tame.
4. My favourite sports am/is/was/are tennis and football.
5. Last summer, a terrible fire destroys/destroy/destroying/destroyed the forest.
6. Star Trek is/are/will be/was a very famous TV series in the 1960s.
7. The new TV remote was take/taken/took/takes back to the shop because it was broken.
8. I seen/saw/sees/see my cousin at the playground yesterday.
9. We are go/went/goes/going on an aeroplane next week.
10. Our dog eats/ate/eating/will eat all of his dinner he was so hungry.

Challenge

The underlined verbs are not real words. Can you write the correct verb on the line at the end of each sentence?

We all sitted properly on the floor. _____

“Who writ this story?” our teacher asked. _____

Dad gived us all pocket money for doing our jobs. _____

My family goed to the movies last week. _____

The story beginned with *Once upon a time...* _____

Mum brang in some flowers from the garden. _____