

Rules Right form of Verb

Rule 1:

Subject-verb agreement: the verbs are customarily followed by the subjects, and they must agree with the subjects according to their **number** and **person**. See the rules of Subject-Verb Agreement.

Rule 2:

The variability of the verbs mostly depends on different tenses of the sentences. A form of verbs depends on the time the actions have been performed. See the structures and details of The Present Tense, The Past Tense, and The Future Tense.

Rule 3:

The verbs are also related to the structures of different sentences and clauses. A **clause** has only one verb. In fact, a clause cannot contain more than one finite verb but can have participles (without auxiliaries), infinitives, and gerunds.

Example:

- I wanted (main verb) to go (infinitive) to the wedding.
- Swimming (gerund) is (verb) a good exercise to keep (infinitive) your body fit and healthy.
- Pray (verb) for the departed (past participle)
- Don't get (verb) down from a running (present participle) bus.

Rule 4:

Clauses can be connected by conjunctions and connectors. Some connectors take some specific forms of verbs. Conditionals use the conjunction **if** and it has some different sentence structures. See [conditionals](#).

Rule 5:

The connector **since** has two usages.

1. If **since** is used to indicate a cause, the verbs of the two clauses will be of the same tense.

Example:

- I didn't go since you didn't come.
- Since you were busy, I didn't disturb you.

2. If since is used to indicate time, the verb of the second clause will be different from the first.

Example:

- We haven't seen^(present perfect) each other since he left^(simple past).
- It has been 20 years since he played football.
- 20 years passed^(simple past) since we had met^(past perfect).
- I could not sleep well for a single night since you had left me.

Rule 6:

No sooner had, hardly had, scarcely had, etc. are the adverbials that require a past perfect tense and a past indefinite tense for the sentence.

Example:

- No sooner had I reached home than she left.
- Scarcely had the police reached when the man died.
- Hardly had I finished writing before the teacher ordered to stop writing.

Rule 7:

Coordinating conjunctions (*and, but, or, yet, so*) and **although/though, as, because, till/until, when, whenever, as soon as, while, which, what, that**, etc. connect two clauses which have the verbs of the same tense.

Example:

- We went to London when we were young.
- I got up, and he left the room.
- As soon as I came here, he greeted me.
- I could not go there because I was sick.

Rule 8:

As conjunctions **after** and **before** are used to connect two clauses which use past perfect tense and past simple. The past perfect tense always comes with a clause of simple past tense. See the past perfect tense for details and examples.

Rule 9:

The conjunction **lest** requires a modal **should** in the following clause regardless of the tense of the first clause.

Example:

- Run faster lest you should miss the bus.

- He will work hard lest he should get fired.
- He worked hard lest he should get fired.

Rule 11:

Modals always take the base form of the verbs after them. See [Modals](#) for details.

Rule 12:

The clause '*it is time*' or '*it is high time*' requires a verb in the simple past if there is a clause after it.

It is high time + subject + simple past. . . .

It was high time + subject + past perfect . . .

It is high time + infinitive

Example:

- It is high time you studied attentively.
- It is time to study attentively. (You can replace the clause by an infinitive removing the subject)
- It was high time we had returned home. (*It was high time* requires past perfect tense)

Rule 13:

The conjunction *as if/as though* takes simple past/past perfect tense in the following clause.

Subject + simple present + as if/ as though + subject + past simple

Subject + simple past + as if/ as though + subject + past perfect

Example:

- Robert talks as if he were the prince. (*Were* is the only 'be verb' in this kind of sentence)
- Latham played as though he had seen the ball very clearly.
- I slept as if I had been dead.
- He behaves as if he were her husband.

Rule 14:

Prepositions, articles, and **possessives** are always followed by nouns or gerund form of the verbs.

Example:

- He is keen on moving to California.
- I am thinking about doing the job.
- Alex insisted on going out then.

Rule 15:

To is the only preposition that takes the base form of the verb. However, there some phrases with **to** being at the end of them, which require the gerund form of the verbs.

With a view to, look forward to, being accustomed to, being used to, admit to, confessed to

Example:

- He went there with a view to confessing his crimes.
- I am looking forward to meeting the princess.
- I was used to sleeping at this hour of the day.
- He confessed to stealing that phone.

Rule 16:

To be, being, having, getting, etc. are generally followed by the past participle form of the verbs and other adjectives.

Example:

- Being tired, he took some time off from work.
- He became astonished being robbed in the daylight.
- John went to bazar having eaten a burger.
- He wanted to be educated.

Rule 17:

The **causative verbs** always take the next verb in its base form. See causative verbs and their usages.

HAVE – GET – MAKE – HELP – LET

***Note:** **Get** takes the next verb as infinitives/past participle.

Example:

- I had him wash the dishes.
- He makes me do all the work.
- He got me to make his dinner.

- I got the glass broken.
- Let him help her finish the assignment.

Rule 18:

The base form of the verb is also used in the clauses that use the subjunctive mood. **Some certain verbs** + the conjunction **that** requires the next clause to use the subjunctive mood and the clause uses the base form of the verb in it.

The verbs are:

Advise – demand – prefer – require – ask – insist Propose – stipulate – command – recommend Suggest – decree – order – request – urge – move

Structure:

Subject + the verbs of the above box (any tense) + THAT + subject + base verb +

Example:

- He insisted that I **stay** at home.
- The office requires that we **complete** our work timely.
- She commanded that he **stop** making excuses for being late.
- I recommend that you **wake** up early.

Note: There are some clauses also which require the verb of the next clause to be in base form.

The clauses are:

It is/was + past participle form of the verb of the above box + THAT
It is/was urgent + THAT
It is/was necessary + THAT
It is/was important + THAT

Example:

- It is important that you invite him.
- It was necessary that I make a fence.
- It was recommended that you meet the principal.

Rule 19:

Since a single clause cannot take two verbs, it usually converts the additional verbs to complement by making them infinitives or participles or gerunds.

appreciate – admit – delay – miss – report – suggest – deny – postpone – resent – avoid – enjoy – practice – resist – can't help – finish – quit – resume – consider – mind – recall – risk

- Some verbs always take the additional verbs as a complement by making them **infinitives**.

Verbs followed by the INFINITIVES

agree – desire – hope – plan – attempt – claim – decide – demand – expect – intend – prepare – tend – fail – learn – pretend – want – wish – refuse – need – forget – hesitate – offer – seem

Example:

- He agreed to do the job.
- He desires to go to Disneyland.
- I want to work with you.
- He failed to understand my words.

Verbs followed by the GERUNDS

Example:

- He admitted doing the crime.
- We enjoyed riding the boat.
- I can't help loving you despite your stupidity.
- Would you mind opening the door for me?

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