

## Choosing the Right Verb Form

### Exercise 1

In the following sentences, fill in the proper form of the verb or past participle as adjective in each slot. You may have to add auxiliaries. You can use progressive tenses. Be prepared to state which form of what kind of verb you are using. You may also want to distinguish the tense you have chosen.

### Exercise 1a

1. When I (see) you yesterday, I just (have) a quarrel with my boss.
2. The (disgust) boy sat down in a (discourage) heap.
3. I (go) to my old boyfriend's wedding last Saturday, and as the bride (walk) down the aisle (accompany) by her brother, I (think), "Man, that (can be) me!"
4. By the time we (go) together five months, we (have) about sixty serious fights.
5. I (hit) him, and he (hit) me back.
6. He (have) a serious problem with his temper that he never (try) to control.
7. The (embarrass) child looked down at the (spill) milk.
8. Mary (be) at the store all summer; this (be) a good year for her so far.
9. By the time my vacation (come) next summer, I (save) five hundred dollars.
10. The president (be) (think) to have spend his (impoverish) childhood in this cabin.

### Exercise 1b

1. I (wear) black a lot this year, and in fact I (wear) it right now; they tell me black is the most fashionable color (be) (wear) this season.
2. My best friend (be) (prejudice) about the color black; it (remind) her of funerals.
3. She (be) (frighten) when she (think) of funerals, because she (be) (remind) of her little brother's death.
4. The (frighten) girl (refuse) to see any more horror movies after Night of the Living Dead.
5. The secret of success in life (be) (know) only to those who not (succeed).
6. Do not (trust) an employee who never (find) fault with his/her boss.

### Exercise 2a

1. This (dye) material (be) (guarantee) not to run.
2. (Encourage) students always (do) better work in this school as long as I (be) here.
3. Arnold (run) for five hours when he had to quit.
4. No wonder he (be) (exhaust); the race was (exhaust).
5. The (exhaust) Arnold (work out) for six months before the race even (begin).
6. If you (be) (beat) in an endurance contest, that (do) not (matter); what (matter) is to see if you can (endure).
7. Arnold (never) (run) for more than four hours before, so he (be) a winner.
8. By the next race he (have) more experience than he (have) this time, and no doubt he will (run) even longer.
9. Arnold, (cheered) and (encouraged) by our remarks on his improvement, (plan) to go back into training tomorrow.

### Exercise 2b

1. This (dye) material (be) (guaranty) not to run.
2. (Encourage) students always(do) better work in this school as long as I (be) here.
3. You(run) for six hours exactly in another five minutes.
4. Arnold (run) for five hours when he had to quit.
5. No wonder he (be) (exhaust); the race was (exhaust)
6. The (exhaust) Arnold (work out) for six months before the race even (begin).
7. If you (be) (beat) in an endurance contest, that (do) not (matter) is to see if you can (endure).
8. Arnold (never) (run) more than four hours before, so he (be) a winner.
9. By the next race he (have) more experience than he (have) this time, and no doubt he will (run) even longer.
10. Arnold, (cheer) and (encourage) by our remarks on his improvement, (plan) to go back into training tomorrow.

#### Exercise 2b

1. Last night we (be) (warn) about a bomb scare in the disco where we just (arrive).
2. My girlfriend and I (be) (go) to that disco now for a year and always (enjoy) it.
3. At the urging of the proprietor, we (leave) the place reluctantly because we (here) of a lot of bomb scares but we never (see) an explosion.
4. We (be) hardly out in the street when the place (blow) up; the scare (be) for real.
5. We (be) lucky we (be) (warn).
6. The proprietor (fail) to par off the right people, but I (be) sure he won't (make) that mistake again.
7. Tonight we (watch) television; maybe by tomorrow night we (muster) enough courage to go out again on the streets.
8. As for the proprietor of the disco, he (have) it.
9. A letter (be) (receive) tomorrow by the *New York Times* which he (write).
10. After twenty years of payoffs, he (have) to go on welfare; he (lose) his nerve entirely

The following tales were written in the past tense. Some of the verb forms have been presented in parenthesis in their present tense forms. Above them, write in the form of the verb you think most correct. Be prepared to state which form of kind of verb it is and which tense you are using.

There once was a man of Gotham who (start) for market with two bushels of wheat, and the wheat (be) in a bag (lay) across his horse's back, and the man just (sit) behind the bag. He not (go) far when another man of Gotham (call) to him and (say), "Your horse is small, neighbor, for such a load. Why don't you walk and lead it?"

"That is what I (will) do," (reply) the first man, "but my foot is lame, and I cannot walk very well."

“Then I think you (may) take the bag of wheat on your shoulder, so the horse (will) not have to carry that too.”

“Why yes, so I (can),” said the first man, and he (hoist) the bag of wheat to his shoulder and thus he (carry) it all the way to the market.

“Ahah,” (say) he when he (reach) his destination, “how my little horse (pant) and (sweat) I (do) well to share the work with it for I clearly see that the horse (has) burden enough (carry me without (have ) also to carry this heavy bag of wheat.”

### Exercise 3b

Several people from Gotham once sat down on the ground in a circle, and when they (want) to get up, their legs were so (entangle) that no one (can) make out which (are) his.

“Alas,” (say) they, “what a pity that we (sit) down together. Now we never (be) able to rise and walk again.”

So they (remain) sitting there, very sorrowful and quiet, until they (see) a strangler (pass). They (call) to him and (ask) him if he (can) tell them how they(may) find their legs. The traveler (take) his cane and (point) out each person his feet. “Now .” (say) he, “you know where your feet are, and all you need to do is stand on them.”

When he (say) this, the (confuse) people of Gotham complained it (be) still no use. “However, we thank you, sir, for your good intentions.”

“oh well,” (say) the traveler, “I not (give) up yet. I (try) one more plan.”

Then he (strike) one of the people hard on the legs with his cane, and that person (discover) his legs and (scramble) away. After he (do) this, he (do the same to each of the people of Gotham, till every one of them (tumble) out of the heap and get on his feet.

“How wonderful,” (say) one of them, “that we (shall) discover our feet with the rap of a stick when (think) (will) not (help) if we (sit) here a hundred years.”