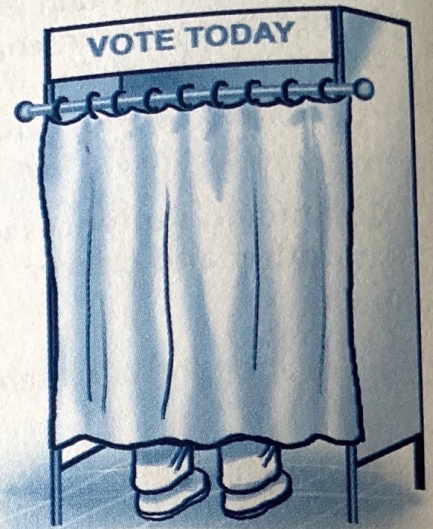


# Lesson 15: Past-Tense Verbs

## LEARN

- A verb in the **past tense** tells about an action that already happened.  
The students **elected** a class president.  
I **supported** one of the candidates.
- Follow these rules to form the past tense.
  - Add **-ed** to most verbs.  
help + ed = **helped**  
All my friends **helped** Will.
  - If a verb ends in **e**, drop the **e** and add **-ed**.  
vote + ed = **voted**  
The students **voted** on Tuesday.
  - If a verb ends in a consonant and **y**, change the **y** to **i**, and add **-ed**.  
hurry + ed = **hurried**  
They **hurried** to the voting booth.
  - For most verbs that end in one vowel followed by one consonant, double the consonant, and add **-ed**.  
stop + ed = **stopped**  
Our regular schoolwork **stopped** for the election.



## PRACTICE

**A** Write the past-tense form of each verb.


- |           |                |           |                 |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. study  | <u>studied</u> | 6. answer | <u>answered</u> |
| 2. grin   | <u>grinned</u> | 7. decide | <u>decided</u>  |
| 3. push   | <u>pushed</u>  | 8. play   | <u>played</u>   |
| 4. debate | <u>debated</u> | 9. clap   | <u>clapped</u>  |
| 5. reply  | <u>replied</u> | 10. carry | <u>carried</u>  |

**B** Write the past-tense form of the verb in parentheses to correctly complete each sentence.

1. All the students gathered in the gym. (gather)
2. Our principal explained the election rules. (explain)
3. I nominated Will for class president. (nominate)
4. Will expressed his ideas in class meetings. (express)
5. He also debated the other candidate. (debate)
6. Both candidates stepped to the front of the room. (step)
7. Will wanted TVs in the cafeteria. (want)
8. Chris described possible school improvement projects. (describe)
9. Most students liked her ideas. (like)
10. The class asked both candidates questions. (ask)
11. I worried a little bit about Will's chances. (worry)
12. Chris's speech stirred strong feelings. (stir)
13. We planned a big "get out the vote" drive for Will. (plan)
14. Our teacher tallied the votes late Tuesday. (tally)
15. Everyone congratulated Chris on her victory. (congratulate)



**C** Chris wrote this election speech. She spelled eight past-tense verbs incorrectly. Use the proofreading marks in the box to correct the errors.

**Remember**   
The spelling of some verbs changes when -ed is added to form the past tense. Follow the spelling rules when writing the past tense of verbs.

My fellow students,

I recently finished a term as your class president, and I ~~tryed~~<sup>tried</sup> to serve you well. I ~~studyed~~<sup>studied</sup> the problems we faced and worked hard to make our school better. I now need another term to finish that work.






Let me briefly describe our class's successes. The first book sale we ever organized ~~raiseed~~<sup>raised</sup> over \$200. We used that money for new musical instruments.

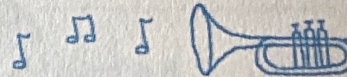
The Everyone Can Help program ~~grabeed~~<sup>grabbed</sup> people's attention. More than half of our classmates ~~applied~~<sup>applied</sup> for volunteer jobs in the school and community.

Our talks with the cafeteria staff ~~helped~~<sup>helped</sup>, too. Students now have healthier meal choices, and we ~~stoped~~<sup>stopped</sup> wasting food.

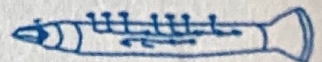
A few of my campaign ideas ~~appeared~~<sup>appeared</sup> in the newspaper. I hope you read them and will vote for me next week.

### Proofreading Marks

-  Add
-  Period
-  Take out
-  Capital letter
-  Small letter



Thanks  
for the  
funds!



**Look Back**  
Did you correct eight spelling mistakes with past-tense verbs?

**D** Read each pair of sentences below. In one sentence, the verb is in the past tense. In the other sentence, the verb is in the present tense. This switch in verb tense can cause confusion for the reader. Write each pair of sentences so that both verbs are in the same tense. The first one is done for you.

1. The class president **represents** us. She **discussed** important issues with teachers.  
*The class president represents us. She discusses important issues with teachers.*

*Or: The class president represented us. She discussed important issues with teachers.*

2. The vice president **helped** the president. He **attends** all the class meetings.  
*The vice president helps the president. He attends all the class meetings.*

*Or: The vice president helped the president. He attended all the class meetings.*

3. The class secretary **recorded** notes during meetings. He **reports** news about upcoming events, too.

*The class secretary records notes during meetings. He reports news about*

*upcoming events, too. Or: The class secretary recorded notes during meetings. He reported news about upcoming events, too.*

4. The treasurer **plans** fund-raisers. She **controlled** the class funds.

*The treasurer plans fund-raisers. She controls the class funds.*

*Or: The treasurer planned fund-raisers. She controlled the class funds.*

5. The student government **planned** activities for the class. It **provides** leadership.

*The student government plans activities for the class. It provides leadership.*

*Or: The student government planned activities for the class. It provided leadership.*



Go back to each pair of sentences you wrote.  
 Are the verbs in the same tense?