

Lesson 19: Using Helping Verbs

LEARN

- The past tense is often formed by adding *-ed* to a verb. Another way to show a past action is to use the helping verbs *has*, *have*, or *had* with the past-tense form of the main verb.

Our grade **has published** a school newspaper.

The students **have worked** hard on it.

We **had studied** newspapers in social studies for weeks.

- Be sure to use the helping verb that agrees with the subject of the sentence.

Subject	Present	Past
singular noun <i>he, she, it</i>	has	had
plural noun <i>I, you, we, they</i>	have	had



PRACTICE

A Write *yes* or *no* to tell if the helping verb agrees with the subject of the sentence.

1. Our class has decided to publish a newspaper. yes

2. A few years ago another class had published a school newspaper. yes

3. We has learned a lot from looking at those earlier news articles and editorials. no

4. Our staff members have selected Mike and Teresa as the head editors. yes

5. They has asked our teacher for help. no

6. Each student have volunteered for a job. no

7. Jon have prepared an article about our new principal, Ms. Gray.
8. He had interviewed her last week.
9. Laura had photographed the new playground.
10. She had borrowed her dad's digital camera for the assignment.

no

yes

yes


yes

B Draw a line under the helping verb in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

1. We (has, had) named our paper *The Student News* earlier in the week.
2. Now we (has, have) renamed it *The Dover School Newsflash*.
3. Ginny (has, have) used her layout skills to design the paper.
4. She (have, had) sharpened her skills in a class last year.
5. Finally, I (has, have) finished my article about the cafeteria food.
6. Yesterday Miki (have, had) asked me to rewrite it.
7. My first draft (have, had) lacked facts and details.
8. Our teacher (has, have) suggested many story ideas to Miki.
9. She (has, have) assigned stories to writers, too.
10. Tim (has, have) roamed around the school looking for news.
11. By last week's deadline he (have, had) talked to almost everyone.
12. This week Ramon (has, have) decided to write an advice column.
13. Many classmates (has, have) handed him funny letters to answer.
14. The twins (has, have) edited most of the stories.
15. They (has, have) learned so much about grammar and punctuation.



C Sasha wrote this news story. In five of the sentences, the helping verbs *has* and *have* do not agree with the subject. Find the mistakes, and use the proofreading marks to correct them.

Remember 
Use *has* with a singular noun and with *he, she, and it*. Use *have* with a plural noun and with *I, you, we, and they*.

First-Time Racer Wins Pinewood Derby

The Pinewood Derby was held tonight in the school gym. Over two dozen participants entered the race.






Mr. Edward Ryan has held these derby races for 25 years. He ^{has} ~~have~~ never seen a race with such fast times before.

The big winner is first-time racer Brian Little! He ^{has} ~~have~~ finished with a best time of 3.15 seconds.

What helped Brian win? Brian says, "I ^{have} ~~has~~ talked with some winning pinewood racers. They ^{have} ~~has~~ given me some tips, and tips from good racers help a lot."

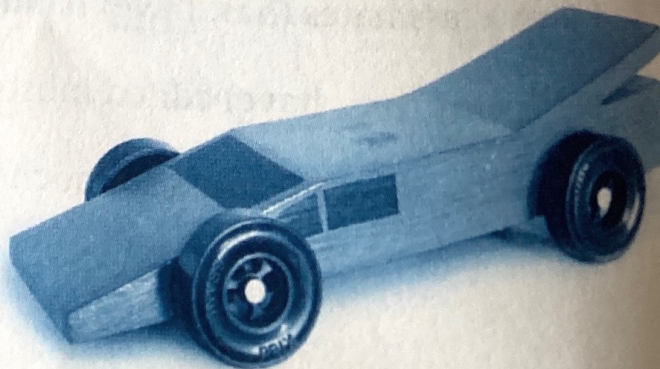
By coming in first Brian ^{has} ~~have~~ earned the right to go to the regional race in Springfield next month. "I can't wait," he said. In the meantime he has started to make his car faster!

Proofreading Marks

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

Look Back

Did you make five helping verbs agree with the subjects?



WRITE



D Think about something exciting that happened to someone you know. Write seven sentences to tell what happened. Use past-tense verbs with the helping verbs **has**, **have**, or **had** in your sentences. Check a dictionary if you need help spelling a word. **Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.**

1. Coach Sue Townes had traveled to New York City.
2. She had participated in the New York City Marathon.
3. The event had occurred in November.
4. She has returned with many interesting facts and stories to share.
5. People had lined the streets to watch.
6. Spectators had cheered the runners.
7. We have listened to the exciting details of her trip.

Proofreading Checklist

- Did you use **has**, **have**, or **had** with the past tense verbs?
- Did you use **has** when the subject of the sentence was a singular noun or **he**, **she**, or **it**?
- Did you use **have** when the subject of the sentence was a plural noun or **I**, **you**, **we**, or **they**?