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Series

iEnglish[®] **202**

Verb Tense

2nd Edition



G. H. Wang and S. D. Wang

iEnglish® 202

Verb Tense, 2nd Edition

by G. H. Wang and S. D. Wang

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How to Read This Book

3 Check your answer/s to questions here in the very next frame.

Read the frames in order and answer the question/s.

Lesson 1:
Clauses

Which of the following groups of words is a sentence because it has both a subject and a predicate? _____

- a. no stone unturned
- b. divided cannot stand
- c. time is money

iEnglish® 201 Page: 7 Frame: 4

1 Follow the frame numbers.

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Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

Welcome to *iEnglish® 202: Verb Tense*, the second book in the *iEnglish® 200s* series!

In this book, we will be looking at some of the most commonly used verb tenses in academic writing

Let us begin, however, with a review of some of the topics that are covered in *iEnglish® 201: The Complete Sentence*. If you are not able to answer the questions in this lesson, please read at least the first three lessons of *iEnglish® 201: The Complete Sentence* before continuing with the rest of this book.

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

A sentence is composed of clauses.

Clauses are the building blocks of the sentence.

A clause contains two essential parts:

i. a _____

ii. a _____

- i. subject
- ii. predicate

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

Put a vertical line between the subject and predicate.

The first non-human to win an Oscar was Mickey Mouse.

The first non-human to win an
Oscar | was Mickey Mouse.

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

Underscore the head noun of the subject with one line and the main verb of the predicate with two lines.

**The first non-human to win an Oscar |
was Mickey Mouse.**

The first non-human to win an Oscar | was Mickey Mouse.

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

There are two kinds of clauses: independent clauses and dependent clauses.

1. An independent clause (*can, cannot*) form a complete sentence by itself.
2. A dependent clause (*does, does not*) have to be joined to an independent clause to form a complete sentence.

1. can
2. does

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

Write “I” for independent clause and “D” for dependent clause. Each pair of clauses forms a complete sentence, so be sure to read the message in the sentence, as well.

1. **a donkey will sink in quicksand _____**
2. **while a mule* will not _____**
3. **in space you cannot cry _____**
4. **because there is no gravity to make the tears flow _____**

*A mule is the offspring of a horse and donkey, especially a male donkey and a female horse. This statement that a mule will not sink in quicksand is probably a myth, but it's based on the notion that a donkey would move around and struggle in the quicksand, while the mule would stay calm, causing less of the sand to shift.

1. I
2. D
3. I
4. D

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

There are two kinds of verb phrase: simple verb phrase and complex verb phrase.

1. The simple verb phrase contains (*one, two or more*) verb.
2. The complex verb phrase contains (*one, two or more*) verbs.

1. one
2. two or more

Lesson 1
Review of the Clause

For each of the following:

- a. Pigs can run about 1.5 km in 7.5 minutes at top speed.**
 - b. Dogs and humans are the only animals with prostates*.**
 - c. A group of kangaroos is called a mob.**
1. Put a vertical line between the subject and predicate.
 2. Underscore the head noun with one line.
 3. Underscore the verb phrase with two lines.

*A prostate is an organ of male mammals that produce a liquid which helps to form semen.

1. Pigs | can run about...
2. Dogs and humans | are the only...
3. A group of kangaroos | is called a mob.

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

Underscore *the complex verb phrases only* with two lines, and put a box around the main verbs.

- a. **The penguin is the only bird that can leap into the air like a porpoise*.**
- b. **Chickens can't swallow while they are upside down.**
- c. **There have been fewer people below 2 km in the sea than there have been on the moon.**

*A porpoise is a sea mammal related to the dolphins.

- a. that canleap into
- b. Chickens can'tswallow while
- c. There havebeen fewer
there havebeen on

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

Strike out the incorrect verb phrases, and rewrite them below the verb phrases. The first one has been done for you.

- a. **Despite its population of over a billion, China ~~have~~ only about 200 family names.** has
- b. **An elephant can pregnant for up to 2 years.**
- c. **Almost three thousand species of trees has been record in one square mile of the Amazon jungle.**

b. ~~can~~, ~~ican~~ be*/is

c. ~~has been record~~, have been recorded

**Note that pregnant is an adjective and can is a modal verb which can never be used by itself as a main verb.*

Lesson 1

Review of the Clause

1. In active voice clauses, the subject (*is, is not*) the agent.
2. In passive voice clauses, the subject (*is, is not*) the agent.

1. is
2. is not

Lesson 1
Review of the Clause

Underscore *the passive verb phrases only* with two lines.

- a. A quarter of the world's plants are threatened with extinction by the year 2010.**
- b. The dinosaurs became extinct before the Rockies or the Alps were formed.**
- c. The call of the humpback whale is louder than the Concorde* and can be heard from 500 miles away.**

*The Concorde is a supersonic passenger airplane.

- a. are threatened
- b. were formed
- c. can be heard

Lesson 1
Review of the Clause

Write the present and past participle forms of the following verbs.

base	present participle	past participle
be	1.	2.
have	3.	4.
do	5.	6.

1. being
2. been
3. having
4. had
5. doing
6. done

Lesson 1
Review of the Clause

The verb phrases that are struck out have opposite meanings from the original. Write the negative verb phrases below them to restore the original meanings. The first one has been done for you.

- The hippopotamus's yawn ~~is~~ a sign of sleepiness or boredom but a threat gesture. *is not***
- Bees ~~have~~ ears, but they have an excellent sense of smell.**
- Although the cheetah is the fastest land animal, unlike other "big cats" it ~~roars~~.**

1. is not
2. do not/don't have
3. does not/doesn't have

Lesson 2

Present Simple

Okay! It's now time to begin our examination of verb tenses. This is an important topic to address in any academic writing program. While it may be difficult when speaking always to get the verb tenses right, when writing, one usually has the time and opportunity to carefully review and consider the verb tenses that are being using to make sure that they communicate the intended meanings.

The rest of this book* is divided into three sections: Present Time, Past Time and Future Time.

*Excluding *Lesson 11: Review and Reference*.

Lesson 2

Present Simple

I. Present Time is covered in lessons 2 to 3

- *Lesson 2: Present Simple*
- *Lesson 3: Present Continuous I*

II. Past Time is covered in lessons 4 to 7

- *Lesson 4: Past Simple*
- *Lesson 5: Past Continuous*
- *Lesson 6: Present Perfect Simple*
- *Lesson 7: Past Perfect Simple*

III. Future Time is covered in lessons 8 to 10.

- *Lesson 8: Be going to*
- *Lesson 9: Present Continuous II*
- *Lesson 10: Will and Other Modals*

*Keep in mind, however, that *iEnglish® 202* does not discuss all of the verb tenses of the English language, but the ones most common in academic writing.

Lesson 2

Present Simple

Let us now begin *Lesson 2: Present Simple!*

The verb phrase has a special function: It can be used to indicate the *time* in which events or situations take place, that is, whether they take place in the past, present or _____.

Because of this special function, verb phrases can be categorized into **tenses**.

In Lesson 2 and 3, we consider two tenses, or categories of verb phrases, that we may use to say that events or situations take place in the present time:

- i. the **present simple** tense
- ii. the **present continuous** tense

future

Lesson 2 Present Simple

This lesson deals with the present simple tense. The present simple tense is very common in academic writing.

The following contains two examples of the present simple tense in active voice. Underscore them both with two lines.

**Although the cheetah is the fastest land animal, unlike other
“big cats” it does not roar.**

Although the cheetah is the fastest land animal, unlike other “big cats” it does not roar.

Lesson 2

Present Simple

- a. India has 50 million monkeys.**
- b. Americans spend around \$3 billion for cat and dog food a year.**
- c. When a horned toad is angry, it squirts blood from its eyes.**

Underscore all present simple verb phrases with two lines.

- a. has
- b. spend
- c. is, squirts

Lesson 2

Present Simple

All of the verb phrases underscored in the previous frame are present simple verb phrases in the (*active, passive*) voice. They are (*simple, complex*) verb phrases containing just one verb in one of the following two forms:

- i. the **base** form (e.g. *spend*)
- ii. the **-s** form (e.g. *has, is, squirts*)

active, simple

Lesson 2 Present Simple

The base form of the verb is used for all plural subjects, as well as the singular subjects, *I* and *you*.

The *-s* form of the verb is used for all singular subjects *except* _____ and _____.

I, you

Lesson 2 Present Simple

- a. sings, dances, jokes, plays, hums
- b. sing, dance, joke, play, hum

Which group of verbs can you use with:

- 1. *they* _____
- 2. *I* _____
- 3. *you* _____
- 4. *he* _____
- 5. *she* _____
- 6. *it* _____

1. b
2. b
3. b
4. a
5. a
6. a

Lesson 2

Present Simple

When the subject and verb form match in this way, we say that we have **subject-verb agreement**.

Write in the following verb phrases with good subject-verb agreement, and read some interesting facts about the giraffe, hen and snail.

- a. The giraffe _____ the highest blood pressure of any animal. (*have*, present simple, active voice)
- b. The typical hen _____ 19 dozen eggs a year. (*lay*, present simple, active voice)
- c. A snail's reproductive organs _____ in its head. (*be*, present simple, active voice)

- a. has
- b. lays
- c. are

Lesson 2

Present Simple

Now, let us look at an example of the present simple verb phrase in the passive voice:

A group of ravens | is called a murder.

In this sentence, we (*do, do not*) know who is doing the calling. In other words, the passive voice clause (*does, does not*) have the agent, or doer of the action, in the subject position.

do not, does not

Lesson 2 Present Simple

Underscore the verb phrases with two lines. Then, write “A” for active voice and “P” for passive voice:

- a. **More people are killed annually by donkeys than in airplane crashes.** _____
- b. **Descendents from the Scottish clan of Kerr are more likely to be left-handed than any other ancestral group.** _____
- c. **Four thousand people are injured by tea pots every year.**

- a. are killed, P
- b. are, A
- c. are injured, P

Lesson 2

Present Simple

The present simple tense in passive voice requires the following (*one, two, three*) verbs, and it is, therefore, a (*simple, complex*) verb phrase:

- i. the present simple form of the auxiliary verb _____, and
- ii. the (*base, present participle, past participle*) form of the main verb.

Moreover, the present simple tense in the passive voice (*does, does not*) require subject-verb agreement.

two, complex

i. be

ii. past participle

does

Lesson 2 Present Simple

Write the correct verb phrases.

a. The Gerenuk, otherwise known as the “giraffe gazelle*,”

_____ **in East Africa.**

(*find*, present simple, passive voice)

b. Baby frogs _____ tadpoles.

(*call*, present simple, passive voice)

c. A frog’s long, sticky tongue _____ in front of its mouth. (*attach*, present simple, passive voice)

*A gazelle is a type of small African or Asian deer that moves very quickly and gracefully.

- a. is found
- b. are called
- c. is attached

Lesson 2

Present Simple

Any of the modal verbs (e.g. *can, could, may, might*) can be used with a main verb in the simple tense.

A domestic cat can frighten a black bear to climb a tree.

However, when a modal verb is used, the verb that follows immediately after it must be in its (*base, present simple, past simple*) form.

base

Lesson 2 Present Simple

Write the correct verb phrases:

a. In a fight between a polar bear and a lion, the polar bear

_____.

(*win, would* + simple tense, active voice)

b. Zebras _____ the color orange.

(*see, can* + simple tense, active voice, negative)

- a. would win
- b. cannot/can't see

Lesson 2

Present Simple

The present simple tense has two common meanings when referring to present time:

- M1 To state facts that are true or situations that exist (or are believed to be true or exist) at the present time;
- M2 To refer to regular or habitual actions, especially with adverbs or frequency like *usually* and *often*.*

Which meaning is closer in the following example? (M1, M2)

The hippopotamus is the third largest land animal, after the elephant and white rhinoceros.

*Oftentimes, however, these two meanings overlap, as statements about regular or habitual actions are also in themselves factual.

Which meaning, M1 or M2, is closer?

- a. **A group of hippopotamuses is called a “bloat.”** (M1, M2)
- b. **Most of the hippopotamuses in the world now live in Africa.**
(M1, M2)
- c. **Despite its size, a hippo can outrun a human.** (M1, M2)
- d. **A hippo usually gives birth in the months of heavy rainfall.**
(M1, M2)

- a. M1
- b. M1
- c. M1
- d. M2

Lesson 2
Present Simple

Write the correct verb phrases and select M1 or M2 according to the meaning that is closer.

- a. **The hippopotamus (1) _____ an animal that (2) _____ by anyone who (3) _____ what they (4) _____ like.**
- b. **They frequently (5) _____ sharing the water with extremely large crocodiles.**
1. *be*, present simple, active voice (*M1, M2*)
 2. *fear*, present simple, passive voice (*M1, M2*)
 3. *know*, present simple, active voice (*M1, M2*)
 4. *be*, present simple active voice (*M1, M2*)
 5. *see*, present tense with *can*, passive voice (*M1, M2*)

1. is, M1
2. is feared, M1 (or M2)
3. knows, M1
4. are, M1
5. can be seen, M1 or M2

Lesson 2

Present Simple

In academic writing, it is important to aim for accuracy and precision when writing about facts. Oftentimes, the use of the present simple tense alone can result in statements that are “too strong.”

For example, consider these statements:

- a. Hippopotamuses are \wedge found near rivers or lakes.**
(Are they always found near rivers or lakes?)
- b. They \wedge exit and enter the water at the same spots.**
(Do they always do this without fail?)

In other words, these statements would be more accurate with the addition of the adverb *usually* at the spots marked by a caret (\wedge).
(True, False)

True

Lesson 2 Present Simple

Which is the only statement that does *not* sound too strong and exaggerated?* (*a, b, c*)

- a. Puppies sleep for fourteen hours every day.**
- b. Puppies are found new homes between the age of 7 and 12 weeks.**
- c. A puppy is considered an adult at the age of one year.**

*Hint: Ask the question, “Does this always happen?”

We can use certain adverbs (e.g. *about, approximately, probably, possibly, likely, generally, normally, often, frequently, sometimes, occasionally, seldom, rarely*) to control the strength of a statement that is written in the present simple tense.

Put parentheses () around the adverbs that help to make these statements more precise:

- a. **Puppies sleep for about fourteen hours every day.**
- b. **Puppies are usually given to new owners between the age of 7 and 12 weeks.**

- a. about
- b. usually

Lesson 2

Present Simple

Choose between no adverb (-) and the adverb provided as is fitting for the accuracy of the statement.

- a. The wolf (-, *usually*) has very strong jaws.**
- b. Cheetahs are (-, *often*) mistaken for leopards.**
- c. Elephants (-, *normally*) walk about 6.4 km/h.**
- d. Butterflies (-, *sometimes*) undergo a series of physical transformations known as metamorphosis.**
- e. Puppies are (-, *sometimes*) rejected by their mother if they are born by cesarean*.**

*A cesarean is a type of surgery used for giving birth.

- a. -
- b. often
- c. normally
- d. -
- e. sometimes

Lesson 2

Present Simple

Select *M1*, *M2* or *Both* according to the meaning or meanings that apply.

- a. The wolf has very strong jaws.** (*M1, M2, Both*)
- b. Cheetahs are often mistaken for leopards.** (*M1, M2, Both*)
- c. Elephants normally walk about 6.4 km/h.** (*M1, M2, Both*)
- d. Butterflies undergo a series of physical transformations known as metamorphosis.** (*M1, M2, Both*)
- e. Puppies are sometimes rejected by their mother if they are born by cesarean.** (*M1, M2, Both*)

- a. M1
- b. Both
- c. Both
- d. M1
- e. Both

Lesson 3

Present Continuous I

Good! Let us now move on to the other verb tense that is used to indicate *present time* for actions or situations—*Lesson 3: Present Continuous I*.

Swiss zookeepers | are looking for a new home for their 2008 “Swiss Citizen of the Year”—a hippopotamus named Farasi.

While the present simple tense is usually a (*simple, complex*) verb phrase, the present continuous tense, as in our example above, is always a (*simple, complex*) verb phrase.

End of Sample Lessons,

Thank you!

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