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Essential

VERB RULES

1. A verb shows **action** or a **state** of **being**.

Example: She runs every morning.

2. Every **sentence** must have a **main verb**.

Example: Birds fly.

3. Verbs agree with their **subject** in **number** and **person**.

Example: He sings well. (Not "He sing")

4. Use **singular verbs** with **singular subjects**.

Example: The cat sleeps on the couch.

5. Use **plural verbs** with **plural subjects**.

Example: The children play in the garden.

6. **Modal verbs** (can, may, must) are followed by the **base verb**.

Example: You must finish your homework.

7. **Helping verbs** support the **main verb to form tense or mood.**

Example: She is reading a book.

8. The **base form** of a verb is used with "**do**," "**does**," and "**did**."

Example: He does eat vegetables.

9. **Verbs** change forms to **show tense.**

Example: They walked to school yesterday.

10. **Regular verbs** add -ed for the **past form.**

Example: I painted the wall.

11. **Irregular verbs** have **unique past forms.**

Example: She went to the store.

12. Use "**to + base verb**" **for the infinitive.**

Example: He wants to dance.

13. **Gerunds** (verb + ing) act like **nouns**.

Example: Swimming is good exercise.

14. Some **verbs** are **transitive** and **need an object**.

Example: He kicked the ball.

15. **Intransitive verbs** don't take an **object**.

Example: She sleeps peacefully.

16. **Linking verbs** connect the **subject to its complement**.

Example: He is tired.

17. Use "**is/am/are + ing**" for **present continuous tense**.

Example: I am watching TV.

18. Use "**was/were + ing**" for **past continuous tense**.

Example: They were talking.

19. Use "**has/have + past participle**" for present perfect.

Example: She has completed the task.

20. Use "**had + past participle**" for past perfect.

Example: I had eaten before he came.

21. Use "**will have + past participle**" for **future perfect**.

Example: They will have left by 8 PM.

22. Use "**be + past participle**" for **passive voice**.

Example: The letter was written by her.

23. Some **verbs** are followed only by **gerunds**.

Example: I enjoy singing.

24. Some **verbs** are followed only by **infinitives**.

Example: She agreed to help.

25. Some **verbs** can take either **form**.

Example: I like reading / I like to read.

26. Use “**do/does**” for **negative present simple**.

Example: He doesn't like tea.

27. Use “**did**” for **negative past simple**.

Example: They didn't come.

28. Use “**don't/doesn't**” to **form questions**.

Example: Does she work here?

29. **Verbs** of perception can use **bare infinitive or gerund**.

Example: I saw her dance / dancing.

30. Use consistent **verb tense** within the sentence.

Example: He ran outside and jumped over the fence.

31. **Avoid** mixing **tenses without purpose**.

Example: Wrong: She eats and was running.

32. **Action verbs** show what **someone is doing**.

Example: They build houses.

33. **Stative verbs** describe **condition or mental state**.

Example: I believe you.

34. **Stative verbs** are not used in **continuous form**.

Example: Incorrect: I am knowing him.

35. Use "**to be**" carefully in **passive constructions**.

Example: The book is being read.

36. In **reported speech**, verbs often shift one **tense** back.

Example: He said he was tired.

37. Use **strong action verbs** for clarity.

Example: Replace "went fast" with "raced."

38. Use the **correct verb** form after "if" in **conditionals**.

Example: If he calls, I will answer.

39. First conditional: "**will + verb**" in result **clause**.

Example: If you study, you will pass.

40. Second conditional: "**would + verb**" in result **clause**.

Example: If I were you, I would apologize.

41. **Third conditional:** "**would have + past participle**."

Example: If she had called, I would have answered.

42. **Phrasal verbs** are **verb + preposition/adverb**.

Example: He gave up smoking.

43. **Verb tense** must match **time signal**.

Example: Yesterday, I watched a movie. (Not "watch")

44. Use "**be going to + verb**" for planned actions.

Example: I am going to visit Paris.

45. Use "**shall**" for formal or polite future suggestions.

Example: Shall we begin?

46. Use "**used to**" for past habits.

Example: I used to play guitar.

47. Don't use **double verbs** without **connectors**.

Example: Incorrect: He go play.

Correct: He goes to play.

48. **Avoid split infinitives** in **formal writing**.

Example: Formal: She decided to go quickly.

Avoid: She decided to quickly go.

49. Use "**let/make/help**" with **base verb**.

Example: Let me explain.

50. Always check if a **verb** is **transitive or intransitive**.

Example: She reads (intransitive) / She reads books (transitive).