

**Lesson 19****Inferences About People****19**

When you read, you make many inferences about how characters think and feel. You use the same clues that you use in your daily life. You look for several types of clues. These include (1) a description of a character's appearance and background, (2) what a character says, (3) what others say about the character, and (4) what a character does.

**Exercise A**

Read the following description of Sue Lee. Look for clues in the way she moves and looks.

As she listened to the conversation between her mother and father, Sue Lee sank back on the sofa. She stretched her legs in front of her, put her feet on the coffee table, and folded her arms. She was neither smiling nor frowning. Her eyes showed no expression at all, as if she were really not seeing anything. Then suddenly she sat up straight. She clasped her hands in front of her knees and looked directly at her father as he spoke. Leaning closer to him, she lifted her hand and began to speak.

Write two phrases that suggest that Sue is bored with the conversation.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Write two phrases that tell you Sue is becoming interested in the conversation.

3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What type of clue did the writer use to suggest Sue's feelings—her appearance and background, what she says, what other characters say about her, or her actions?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise B**

In this selection Diane Hill—called Di—is talking with her neighbor Bill and his parents and has just mentioned her friend Gia. Bill's father, hearing the name Gia, asks his son a question about Gia. Read the conversation and make inferences about the characters.

"Is Gia coming to your party next Friday?" Dr. Brady asked. Bill looked sharply at Di, and so did his mother.

"I guess so," said Bill, becoming red and flustered. He managed to collect himself. "Di and Gia both," he added with a nervous chuckle.

"Funny, I forgot all about it when I saw you this afternoon. Some of the kids are dropping over next Friday night. You're coming, of course. It wouldn't be the same without you."

"I bet it wouldn't," said Di. She was sure Dr. Brady would hear harsh words later.

"Diane, I'm so glad you're coming," Mrs. Brady purred. She went on, lying smoothly, "Bill was saying just this morning he hoped you could make it, and I was hoping, too. It will be a simple little get-together."

Can you make inferences from what the characters say? Answer these questions:

1. Bill becomes red and flustered because
  - a. he forgot to ask Di to his party.
  - b. he did not plan to ask Di.
  - c. he is afraid Di will refuse his invitation.
2. Di is sure Dr. Brady would hear harsh words later because
  - a. he was not supposed to know about the party.
  - b. he was not supposed to remind Bill to invite Di.
  - c. he was not supposed to mention the party.
3. Mrs. Brady is "lying smoothly" because
  - a. she knew all along that Bill hadn't invited Di.
  - b. she herself didn't know about the party.
  - c. she knows Di cannot come to the party.
4. Do you think that Di believes Bill simply forgot to ask her to the party? What is your evidence?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What type of clues did the writer use to tell you about the characters?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 37

# Principal Parts of Verbs

Verbs have four basic forms, which are called principal parts. They are used to form tenses.

The four main forms of a verb are called its principal parts. They are the present, the present participle, the past, and the past participle. Study the following chart. It shows how to form the principal parts of regular verbs, verbs spelled alike in their past and past participle forms.

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
open	(is) opening	opened	(has, have, had) opened
like	(is) liking	liked	(has, have, had) liked
try	(is) trying	tried	(has, have, had) tried
grin	(is) grinning	grinned	(has, have, had) grinned
omit	(is) omitting	omitted	(has, have, had) omitted

The first form is the present. Next is the present participle, which is formed by adding *-ing* to the present. It is used with a form of the helping verb *be*. (Verbs like these, which show action in progress, are sometimes said to be in the progressive tense.)

The past and past participles are formed by adding *-ed* to the present. The past participle uses a form of the helping verb.

Follow these rules for adding endings to regular verbs.

- For verbs ending in *e*, the *e* is dropped before *-ing* or *-ed* is added.
- For verbs ending in a consonant plus *y*, the *y* changes to *i* before *-ed* is added.
- For one-syllable verbs ending in a single vowel followed by a single consonant, the final consonant doubles before *-ing* or *-ed* is added.
- For two-syllable verbs ending in a single vowel followed by a single consonant, the final consonant doubles before *-ing* or *-ed* is added.
- For two-syllable verbs ending in one vowel and one consonant, and having the accent on the final syllable, the final consonant also doubles.

Some verbs form their past and past participles in other ways—like *ring*, *ringing*, *rang*, *rung*. These are called **irregular verbs**. A dictionary shows the principal parts of these verbs. You will learn more about them later in this book.

### Exercise A

Underline the verbs in the sentences and write what principal part each was formed from.

**Example:** Mighty dinosaurs had once roamed North America.

**Answer:** Mighty dinosaurs had once roamed North America. —past participle

1. Dinosaurs lived in many parts of the world. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Some dinosaurs had measured over forty-five feet in length. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I have looked at many dinosaur skeletons in museums. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Every year, experts are discovering more and more about them. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Scientists consider a new discovery extremely important. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I am attending some lectures on dinosaurs this week. \_\_\_\_\_
7. They are helping me with my report for science. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Dinosaurs long ago disappeared from the face of the earth. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Even so, they still capture our imagination. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The lectures interest me a great deal. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise B**

Complete the chart.

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
climb	1.	climbed	climbed
2.	trying	tried	tried
ski	skiing	skied	3.
yell	yelling	yelled	4.
receive	5.	received	received
patrol	patrolling	6.	patrolled
permit	permitting	7.	8.
9.	10.	liked	liked

## Lesson 38

# Perfect Tenses

Verbs have present, past, and future perfect tenses.

The perfect tenses express actions that were completed or will be completed by a certain time. The perfect tenses are made by using certain forms of *have* with the past participle of the verb.

Perfect Tenses	Time	Sample Sentences
Present	Begun in the past, continuing, or completed now	I have called my best friends.
Past	Begun in the past, completed in the past	Earlier I had compiled a list of these friends.
Future	Begun in the past or present, completed in the future	By tonight, I will have invited everyone.

Notice in the chart that the words *called*, *compiled*, and *invited* are the past participle forms.

### Exercise A

Read the following sentences and then answer the questions about the verbs.

She has listened to your every word.

We both had sympathized with your position until quite recently.

I will have stated my own point very soon now.

1. What helping verb is used with *listened* to form the present perfect tense?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What kind of action does the present perfect tense show?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What helping verb is used with *sympathized* to show the past perfect tense?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What two helping verbs are used with *stated* to form the future perfect tense?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise B

Underline the perfect tense verbs and write what tense they are.

Example: I have enjoyed all kinds of sports.

Answer: I have enjoyed all kinds of sports. —present perfect

1. I have taken swimming lessons since October. \_\_\_\_\_
2. By June 20, I will have attended thirty lessons. \_\_\_\_\_
3. My teacher has complimented me on my Australian crawl. \_\_\_\_\_
4. My diving also has improved. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I have practiced even more lately. \_\_\_\_\_
6. By the end of August I will have raced in several events. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Neither of them had swum before. \_\_\_\_\_
8. In a week each of them will have taken three lessons. \_\_\_\_\_
9. By last May I had taken four tennis lessons. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Tennis has become my friend Rita's favorite sport. \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise C

Rewrite the sentences, adding the suggested form of the verb.

Example: I \_\_\_\_\_ a great experiment. (*complete*, present perfect)

Answer: I have completed a great experiment.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ about a life without friends. (*wonder*, present perfect)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Now I \_\_\_\_\_ it is no life at all. (*conclude*, present perfect)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ at this conclusion by a simple experiment. (*arrive*, present perfect)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Until yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_ to no one for thirty days. (*talk*, past perfect)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ no phone calls. (*answer*, past perfect)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ no one. (*visit*, past perfect)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. For thirty days I \_\_\_\_\_ without friends. (*live*, past perfect)  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. I finally \_\_\_\_\_ what friendship means. (*learn*, present perfect)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Practice 15: Synonyms

A synonym is a word similar to or exact in meaning to another word. Knowing synonyms will improve your vocabulary and writing.

**Example:** *Lift* is a synonym for *hoist*.

**A.** Write the two words that are synonyms in each sentence.

1. The ironworker was a skilled craftsperson, or artisan.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Loud cheers came from the boisterous crowd.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Mrs. Ramos rewards curious students: she likes to see an inquisitive mind.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The witness was urged to take back her testimony, but she would not recant.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Mrs. Chin likes living in a mild climate; she will soon move to a temperate zone.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The powerful medicine proved to be a potent cure.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The criminal seemed totally devoid of a conscience; she was also lacking in remorse.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Strong leg muscles are necessary to play soccer, and coordination is indispensable.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Miriam became enraged at the dog; its endless barking infuriated her.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Climbing Mount McKinley is difficult, but climbing Mount Everest is even more arduous.

\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Write a word you wrote in Part A to complete each group of related words.

1. mighty, strong, powerful, \_\_\_\_\_

2. angered, enraged, furious, \_\_\_\_\_

3. essential, necessary, needful, \_\_\_\_\_

4. curious, inquiring, questioning, \_\_\_\_\_

5. missing, lacking, absent, \_\_\_\_\_