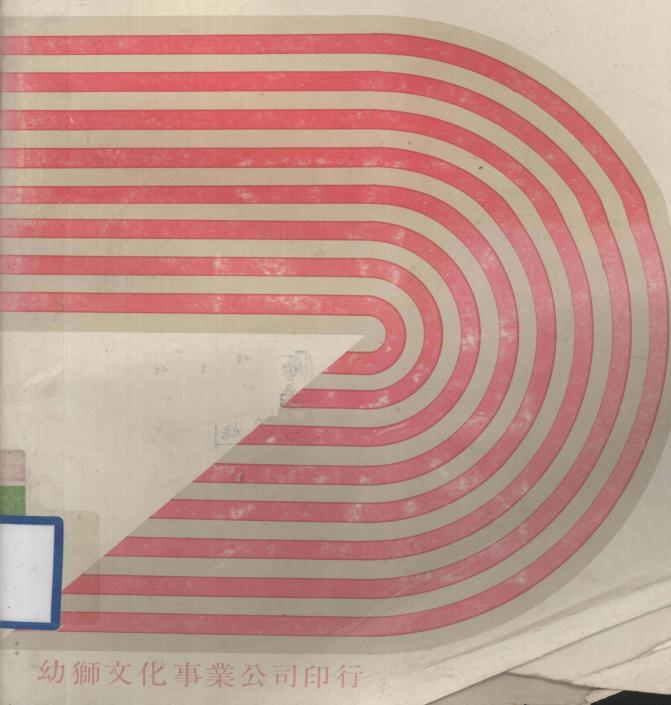
大學英文法與作文

下 册 余 鏞編著



大學英文法與作文

College English Grammar and Composition

BOOK TWO

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THE VERB IN MODERN ENGLISH

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CHAPTER I IN

INTRODUCTION: DEFINITIONS, PROPERTIES, KINDS. AND PRINCIPAL PARTS OF VERBS.

1. Verb Defined and Its Importance. The term <u>werb</u> comes from Latin <u>verbum</u>, meaning word. It is so called because it is the most important word in a sentence.

In the first place, a verb expresses action, being, or state of being and thus makes an assertion. Without the predicate verb no sentence weill be grammatically complete and make any sense. Even in conversation we use complete sentences in most cases, instead of broken phrasing. Moreover, sentences depend on various kinds of verbs and their combinations with other particles or constructions for nearly all kinds of sentence patterns. Therefore, it goes without saying that the verb is the nucleus, the heart, or the life of the sentence.

In the second place, verbs are more elaborately inflected than any other part of speech--nouns, pronouns, adjectives, or adverbs. Verbs are inflected to show different points of time, various shades of meaning, distinctive moods, and grammatical functions.

2. Properties of Verbs. All verbs inflect to show five so-called "properties"—namely, (1) person, (2) number, (3) tense, (4) voice, and (5) mood. These are finite or predicate verbs. A further inflection of the verb, known as "verbals," is in the form of an infinitive, a participle, or a gerund. They are incapable of expressing prediction and lose several distinctions of tense and voice though often more vaguely than in the finite verb. They also function as nouns or adjectives or adverbs.

In fact, a verb is, in most cases, a group of words of various constructions, called verb phrase. In addition, a verb may be compounded with a preposition, an adverb, or some other words to form an idiomatic verb phrase, which grammarians call phrasal verb, group verb, two-word verb, special idiomatic verb, etc.

- 3. Kinds of Verbs. Verbs may be classified into different kinds. The following classification, which is by no means complete, will throw light on the nature of the verb-
- a. Finite and non-finite verbs. A finite (or predicate) verb is one that requires a subject in the nominative case and is limited by its subject in person and number. Non-finite verbs are those verb forms which are derived from verbs and are used as other parts of speech. They do not have a subject and are not limited as to person and number. Verbals are the non-finites.
- b. Regular and Irregular Verbs. A regular verb forms its past tense and past participle by adding d, ed, or t to the present tense. An irregular verb forms its past tense and past participle by a change of vowel within itself or in any other way.
- c. Auxiliary and Principal Verbs. An auxiliary verb is a verb which helps in the formation of a verb phrase. A principal or main verb is that member of a verb phrase that contains the main idea of the phrase. It is the last verb in such a phrase.
- d. Defective Verb. A defective verb is one that lacks some of the forms that most verbs have, for instance, -s form, past tense, -ing form, and past participle and, therefore, cannot be used in all the moods and tenses. The following are defective verbs:

can, could; may, might; shall, should; will, would; must; ought

- e. Transitive and Intransitive Verbs. A transitive verb is one the action of which passes over to a receiver. When the actor is the subject, the receiver of the action is the object and the verb is in the active voice. When the receiver of the action is the subject, the verb is in the passive voice and remains transitive. An intransitive verb is one the action of which does not pass over to a receiver. Its meaning is complete in itself and needs, therefore, only a subject to express a complete thought. A transitive verb may be defined roughly a verb that takes an object to complete its meaning. An intransitive verb may be defined roughly a verb that does not take an object.
- f. Dative Verb. A dative verb is a transitive verb which takes two objects —the direct object and the indirect object. The indirect object comes before the direct object. If the indirect object is placed after the direct, it must be preceded by the preposition to or for. Then the construction becomes a prepositional phrases functioning as an adverbial modifier of the verb.
- g. Factitive Verb. A factitive verb takes an objective completement in addition to a direct object. Such verbs as make, call, name, choose are factitive verbs.
- h. Copulative or Linking Verb. A copulative (linking) verb is an intransitive verb which does not make a complete sense by itself, but requires a complement—a predicate nominative or a predicate adjective—to supply what the verb left unsaid. The most commonly used copulative verb is be in its various forms such as am, is, was, were. Some other verbs used as copulatives are seem, become, appear, prove, look, remain, feel, taste, smell, sound, turn, grow.
- 4. Principal Parts of the Verb. According to Harold E. Palmer and Henry Sweet, the principal parts of a verb are (1) the present infinitive (also called the present stem, the root form, or the simple form), (2) the -s form, (3) the past tense (or the past form), (4) the past participle, and (5) the present participle (or the -ing form). Students of English must learn when to use the various forms of a verb.
- (1) The present form may function as a single-word verb or may be preceded by auxiliaries.
- (2) The -s form functions as a single word verb with a singular subject in the third person.
 - (3) The past form functions as a single-word verb.
 - (4) The past participle is used, -

market (B) and

a. after some form of the auxiliary have to make the perfect tense-

I have been here for some time. He had made a mistake. You must have known what I meant.

- b. after some form of the auxiliary be to indicate the passive voice—

 He was killed in an accident.

 Everything is being done to avert the danger.
 - c. before (sometimes after) a substantive or after a linking verb as an adjective-

The faded rose will soon die. They spoke of days gone by. He is determined to succeed. d. after get or have + direct object as objective complement --

I must get my hair cut.

If you can't do it yourself, why don't you get it done by somebody else?

I must have my luggage sent to the station.

How much will it cost to have it altered?

after some other verbs + direct object as objective complement--

There was such a noise (that) he couldn't make himself heard.

I was there myself and saw it done.

I want these things changed.

I like them boiled.

e. as absolute construction in phrase or alone--

No decision having been arrived at, they resolved to call another meeting.

Once seen, it can never be forgotten.

- (5) The -ing-form is used in three different ways, -
 - a. as a verb after some form of the verb to be to show the continuous action (the progressive tense forms)--

He is coming soon.

He was reading a book.

He will be doing that until you arrive.

I have been waiting for a letter from him.

I had been playing too much.

By next autumn I shall have been living here six years.

We are being invited to more parties than we can possibly attend.

What are you going to do?

I must be going now.

- b. as the present participle functioning mainly as an adjective--
 - 1) as an attributive adjective

The speeding car disappeared in a whirl of dust.

2) as a predicate adjective

It isn't very encouraging.
I am always willing to learn.

3) as an objective complement

I saw him running down the street.

I hope I haven't kept you waiting too long.

- 4) as a modifier placed either before or after the word it modifies Approaching, he introduced himself.

 He went hunting.
- 5) absolutely with a noun or pronoun going before

Weather permitting, there will be a garden party at the Grand Hotel tomorrow.

Darkness coming on, we made camp.

- c. as the gerund functioning mainly as a noun-
 - as a noun without verbal function
 We attended the wedding.
 I like fast walking much better than slow strolling.
 - 2) as a noun with verbal function

Thank you for giving me such a good time.

His continually grumbling at things makes me angry.

He spent a long time (in) getting it quite ready.

A democracy is a state where every man has the opportunity of bettering himself.

3) as in such prepositional phrases as the following. In talking with Brown, I learned the news. On seeing a great smoke, we ran home. After having bought a cigar, I asked the girl in the fruit stand how to find Main Street.
By working hard, we finished the task.

These prepositional phrases made up of a preposition and a gerund phrase are treated as gerund phrases. Some grammarians call such a construction prepositional gerund phrase.

CAUTION: In most grammar books only the root, the past, and the past participle forms are treated as the principal parts of the verb because the s-form and the present participle are formed in a regular way by adding -s and -ing respectively to the root form.

5. Troublesome Verbs. The following verbs are especially troublesome. Study them carefully; Memorize their principal parts thoroughly.

arise arose bear bore borne (born: given birth to) bid (command) bade bidden bid (offer) bid bid broadcast broadcast (not broadbroadcast casted) burst burst (not bursted) burst dive dived (not dove) dived get got got (not gotten) hang (execute) hanged hanged hang hung hung lay (place) laid laid lie (recline) lay lain lie (tell an untruth) lied lied raise (elevate) rose risen set (place) set set sit (be in a sitting sat sat position)