

## Verb Forms

### How to Eliminate Wrong Answers

- ✓ Start from number 1 and stop as soon as you can eliminate the wrong three options.
- ✓ Most SAT questions are solved by step 4.

#### 1. Check time markers

- Look for words like *yesterday, in 1990, currently, every day, before, by the time, already*.
- These lock in the tense.
- Eliminate any option that doesn't match.

#### 2. Check subject number

- Find the real subject (ignore phrases between commas or "of + noun").
- A singular subject needs a singular verb.
- Eliminate options that don't agree.

#### 3. Check if a main verb already exists

- Read the full sentence.
- If there is already a main verb, the blank probably needs a nonfinite form (*-ing, past participle, to + verb*), not another finite verb.
- Eliminate verbs like *was, suggested, developed*.

#### 4. Check what comes before the blank

- Certain words force a specific form:
  - *to* → base verb (*to study, to join*)
  - *is/are/was/were* → *-ing* or past participle (*is studying / was built*)
  - *have/has/had* → past participle (*has finished, had invented*)
- Eliminate options that break these patterns.

#### 5. Check for a sequence of two past events

- If one past action happened *before* another past action, the earlier one needs *had + past participle*.
- Eliminate simple past if the sentence uses *before, by the time, already, or after*.

#### 6. Check for parallel structure

- If the blank sits in a list or pair ("*she premiered... and \_\_\_\_\_*"), the verb must match the form of the other verb.
- Eliminate anything in a different tense or form.

#### 7. Check for a result or purpose clause

- If the blank explains *why* or *what happens as a result*, it likely needs *to + verb* or *-ing* after a comma.
- Eliminate finite verbs here.