

Verb Forms: Advice from Students

I pick the answer that " sounds right

For anyone having trouble with verb aspects (simple, perfect, progressive, perfect-progressive), here's a pattern that I thought might be helpful:

Simple: for stating general facts, or a permanent/repeated action

ex: "I teach." (said by a teacher)

"Fish breathe underwater." (a general fact)

Perfect: emphasizes RESULTS

(add a measurable amount at the end of the phrase, like "3 miles")

ex: "He had ran 3 miles." "He has run 3 miles." "He will have run 3 miles."

Progressive: emphasizes ACTION

(ask: what was/is/will the subject (be) doing?)

ex: "He was running." "He is running." "He will be running."

Perfect-Progressive: emphasizes DURATION of the action

(at the end of the phrase, add: "for" + a time duration, like "1 hr")

ex: "He had been running [for] [one hour]."

"He has been running [for one hour]."

"He will have been running [for one hour]."

If you get an appositive (which in my personal experience the SAT loves to put in these questions) simply cut out the extra information!

Example: The books on my shelf, my favorite novels, (needs/need) to be organized.

It looks kind of hard until you cross out the appositive:

The books on the shelf (need/needs) to be organized.

Also, I made some points from the article (summarized).

- Look at any dates and time transitions.
- Look at the other verbs in the sentence (big one for me).

Hope this helps anyone who find it :)

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