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English Verbs

SECOND EDITION

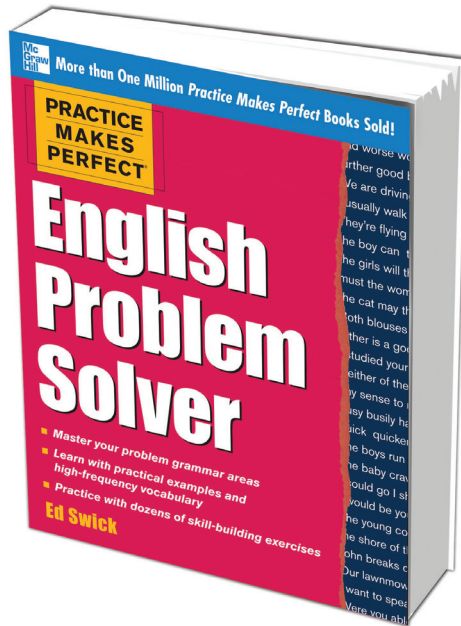
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Loretta Gray

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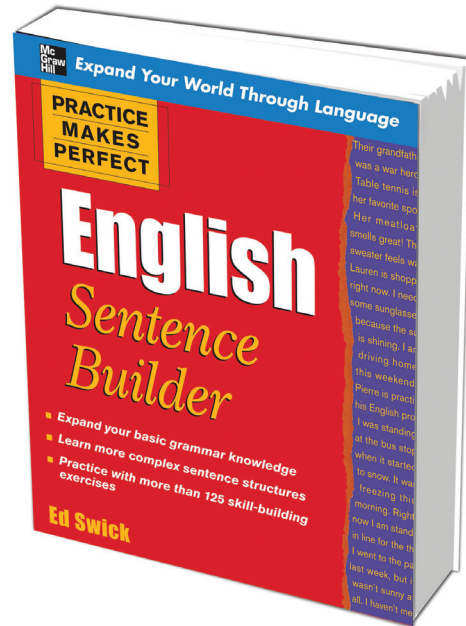
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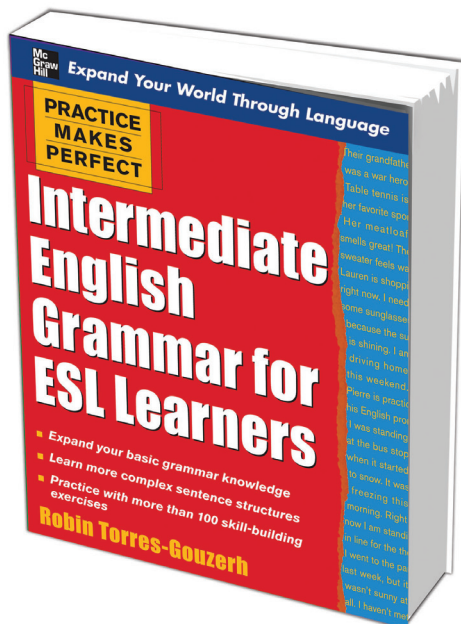
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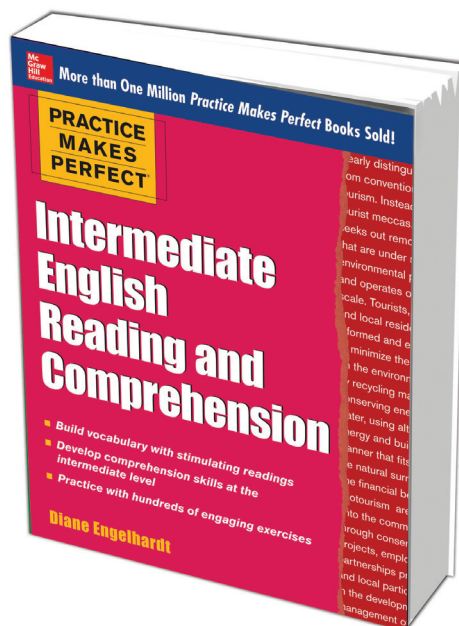
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Loretta Gray

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Contents

Introduction	vii	
PART I	The Present Tense	1
Unit 1	Simple Present	3
Unit 2	<i>Be</i> Verb Forms, Simple Present	11
Unit 3	Present Progressive (<i>Be</i> Verb + <i>-ing</i>)	19
Unit 4	Present Perfect	29
Unit 5	Present Perfect Progressive	37
PART II	The Past Tense	45
Unit 6	Simple Past	47
Unit 7	<i>Be</i> Verb Forms, Simple Past	55
Unit 8	Past Progressive (<i>Be</i> Verb + <i>-ing</i>)	61
Unit 9	Past Perfect	69
Unit 10	Past Perfect Progressive	75
PART III	The Future Tense	81
Unit 11	Simple Future	83
Unit 12	<i>Be Going To</i>	89
Unit 13	Future Progressive (<i>Will Be</i> Verb + <i>-ing</i>)	95
Unit 14	Future Perfect	101
Unit 15	Future Perfect Progressive	107

PART IV	Imperative, Passive, and Hypothetical Conditional	111
	Unit 16 Imperative	113
	Unit 17 Passive	117
	Unit 18 Hypothetical Conditional	125
PART V	Phrasal Verbs and Modal Auxiliary Verbs	127
	Unit 19 Phrasal Verbs	129
	Unit 20 Modal Auxiliary Verbs	137
PART VI	Gerund and Infinitive Complements	145
	Unit 21 Gerunds	147
	Unit 22 Infinitives	149
	Unit 23 Gerunds or Infinitives	153
	Review Exercises	155
	Appendix: Chart of Irregular Verbs	177
	Glossary	183
	Answer Key	185

Introduction

When you study English verbs, you must do more than search for their meanings in a dictionary. You must also learn how to conjugate them and use these conjugations appropriately. Most students begin their studies by memorizing verb forms. They learn both the verb endings for regular verbs and the more complicated forms of the irregular verbs. *Practice Makes Perfect: English Verbs* provides you with opportunities to practice conjugating more than three hundred verbs, both regular and irregular.

However, this text is more than a list of verb forms and mechanical exercises. It also presents the reasons for choosing one verb form over another. For example, you may know the dictionary meaning of *walk*, but to use this verb to refer to the future, you must understand your options; that is, you must understand the role of tense and aspect. To indicate future, you could say *I'll walk to school today*, *I'm going to walk to school today*, or *I'm walking to school today*, but not *I walk to school today*.

When most people think of *tense*, they think of time. While it is true that tense is sometimes related to present, past, and future time, this is not always the case. In the sentence *My plane leaves in twenty minutes*, the simple present tense of the verb *leave* is used to refer to future time. As well as being marked for tense, verbs are marked for aspect. Aspect provides information about whether an action, a state, or an event has been completed and how a verb is related to other verbs in a time sequence. *I study English* and *I am studying English* are both in the present tense, but they differ in aspect. The verb in the first sentence refers to a habitual action; the verb in the second sentence refers to an action that is not yet completed. To indicate both tense and aspect, *study* is said to be in the simple present and *am studying* is said to be in the present progressive. In the sentence *I had been studying for the test when the phone rang*, there are two main verbs: *study* and *ring*. They are both in the past tense; however, they differ in aspect. *Had been studying* is the past perfect progressive, whereas *rang* is just the simple past. The difference in aspect indicates that the action of studying was ongoing and prior to the action of ringing. Tense and aspect intersect in the following way.

Tense/Aspect	present	past	future
simple	simple present	simple past	simple future
progressive	present progressive	past progressive	future progressive
perfect	present perfect	past perfect	future perfect
perfect progressive	present perfect progressive	past perfect progressive	future perfect progressive

The form and meaning of each of these tense-aspect combinations will be described in the units of this book. Although you will study all the tenses mentioned in traditional textbooks, you will also study the concept of aspect so that you will have a deeper understanding of the grammatical meaning conveyed by the form of a verb. Thus, as you work through the material in *Practice Makes Perfect: English Verbs*, you will learn not only how to conjugate verbs but also why to use specific verb forms.

Any study of verbs would be incomplete without the inclusion of special types of verbs and complementation patterns. After you become familiar with verb conjugations, you will study phrasal verbs, modal verbs, and verb complementation (gerunds and infinitives).

This book focuses on the verbs most frequently used in English. It is appropriate for classroom use or individual study. If you are in a class, your teacher may choose to assign exercises to supplement your other coursework. If you are studying alone, you can use the Answer Key at the back of the book to check your work and decide whether you should review a chapter or go on to the next.

There are six principal parts in this book:

PART I—THE PRESENT TENSE The five units in Part I will help you learn the verb forms that constitute four different tense-aspect combinations: simple present, present progressive, present perfect, and present perfect progressive. You will practice using these forms in positive statements, negative statements, and questions. You will also learn how to form contractions with pronouns or the word *not*. A special section focuses on the verb *be*.

PART II—THE PAST TENSE The five units in Part II will help you learn four more tense-aspect combinations: simple past, past progressive, past perfect, and past perfect progressive. As in Part I, you will practice using these tense-aspect combinations and their contracted forms in positive statements, negative statements, and questions. In this part also, there is a special section focusing on the verb *be*.

PART III—THE FUTURE TENSE Part III differs from the others in that the modal *will* is introduced rather than verb endings. This part consists of five units: simple future, future progressive, future perfect, future perfect progressive, and a unit on the use of *be going to*. You will practice using the future tense-aspect combinations and their contracted forms in positive statements, negative statements, and questions.

PART IV—IMPERATIVE, PASSIVE, AND HYPOTHETICAL CONDITIONAL The three units in Part IV will help you learn to use verbs in special constructions not discussed earlier: imperative (*Be careful!*), passive (*The project was finished on time.*), and hypothetical conditional (*If I were you, I would accept the offer.*).

PART V—PHRASAL VERBS AND MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS The English language is full of phrasal verbs, which are verb-particle combinations, such as *run into* in *run into an old friend*. In the first unit of Part V, you will practice using some common phrasal verbs. The second unit of Part V focuses on modal auxiliary verbs. Although you will be introduced to modal verbs in Parts III and IV, you will learn more about the subtle shades of meaning that tense and aspect add to these verbs.

PART VI—GERUND AND INFINITIVE COMPLEMENTS Some verbs take gerunds, some take infinitive complements, and some take both. Part VI will help you learn to choose appropriate verb complements.

Following these six parts are **Review Exercises**, twenty-five exercises that can reveal your overall comprehension.

Practice Makes Perfect: English Verbs ends with an appendix of irregular verb forms, followed by a glossary of grammatical terms.