



Key ELA Grammar Topics – Verb Tense Errors

SHSAT Level Practice

1. Read this sentence:

The tourist exited the wrong subway stop and ends up in the wrong neighborhood.

Which change would correct this sentence?

- A. Change "exited" to "will exit"
- B. Change "exited" to "had exited"
- C. Change "ends" to "will end"
- D. Change "ends" to "ended"

2. Read this sentence:

It is amazing to think that wine, which starts out as grapes on a vine, is a bottled beverage anyone can buy in a store today.

Which change would correct this sentence?

- A. Change "is" to "will be"
- B. Change "starts" to "will start"
- C. Change "starts" to "has started"
- D. Change "starts" to "started"

3. Read this sentence:

I finally won the award, and the victory made me shout for joy as I fell to my knees and hug the trophy.

Which change would correct this sentence?

- A. Change "hug" to "hugged"
- B. Change "fell" to "fall"
- C. Change "won" to "had won"
- D. Change "made" to "makes"

4. Read this sentence:

When I bought the new clothes, I realize that I did not get the discount in the advertisement.

Which change would correct this sentence?

- A. Change "bought" to "buy"
- B. Change "realize" to "realized"
- C. Change "did not" to "don't"
- D. Change "bought" to "had bought"

5. Read this sentence:

David is a troubled youth - he says he will reform his ways in the future, but he had not proven that to be the case.

Which change would correct this sentence?

- A. Change "is" to "was"
- B. Change "will reform" to "has reformed"
- C. Change "had not" to "has not"
- D. Change "will reform" to "will have reformed"

6. Read this sentence:

After I run a marathon, I finally will achieve my goal, and I will relax before I train again for the next race.

Which change would correct this sentence?

- A. Change "run" to "will have run"
- B. Change "will achieve" to "will have achieved"
- C. Change "will relax" to "will have relaxed"
- D. Change "train" to "will train"



Answer Key

1.(D)

Change "ends" to "ended"

The first verb tense, *exited*, is past tense. To stay consistent, the second verb tense, *ended*, should also be past tense.

2.(D)

Change "starts" to "started"

The first and last verb, *is*, indicate present tense. The sentence looks to the past to indicate what wine was before it becomes wine. As a result, the verb "to start" should be past tense to reference the original form of wine - grapes.

3.(A)

Change "hug" to "hugged"

The verbs, *won*, *made*, and *fell* are all past tense. The verb "hug" should be past tense, *hugged*, to agree with the tense of the other verbs.

4.(B)

Change "realize" to "realized"

The verbs *bought* and *did get* are past tense. The verb "realize" should be past tense, *realized*, to agree with the past tense of the other verbs. It isn't sufficient to change past tense "bought" to present tense "buy" because "did not get" is still in the past tense. For the same reason, changing "did not get" to the present tense "do not get" is insufficient if "bought" remains in the past tense.

5.(C)

Change "had not" to "has not"

The main verb "is" indicates present tense. Although David hopes to change, he has not yet proven he can reform at the current time. The present perfect tense identifies an action that continues to occur up through the current time, so the verb tense for "to prove" should be present perfect tense. The present perfect tense is usually preceded by the present form of *to have*. In this case, that is "has not proven".

6.(B)

Change "will achieve" to "will have achieved"

The achievement of the goal occurs leading up to and ending with the running of the marathon, which presumably has not yet occurred. The future perfect tense is appropriate for an event leading up to a future moment, so it is correct to change the future tense "will achieve" to the future perfect "will have achieved". The future perfect

tense includes the future tense of the verb *to have* plus the past tense of the main verb - **will have + achieved**. There is no need to change "train" to the future tense "will train" to match "will relax". If the main clause is future tense, then the subordinate clause will be present tense, not future tense.