

## OMITTED WORD ENDINGS

Very often students have a hard time converting their oral speech patterns to the written word. One common characteristic of our speech is that we sometimes do not pronounce the ends of words, especially the *-ed*. For example, when we say “I walked to town,” the *-ed* on walked is not heard strongly. Thus, we may forget that it is there. However, it is indeed part of that word, a necessary part because it denotes the past tense of the action *walk*. When we write that sentence, we must be very careful to include that ending to the verb. Those word endings, especially the *-ed*, tell our readers the time (or tense) that the action in the sentence occurred.

Take a look at the following sentences. See if you can find any verbs that have their appropriate ending(s) omitted.

Mary try to pretend that John had not hurt her feelings.

John wish he could have made the varsity football team.

Whenever Bill bought gas, he wash his car for free.

Yesterday John use his credit card for the first time.

The window crack when Mike’s ball hit it.

I was suppose to do the dishes after work.

I was ask to the party but decided not to go.

The wreck car could not be fixed because no parts were available.

Sometimes the *s* on plural nouns is often omitted, causing confusion on the part of the reader. Be on the lookout for words that end in sounds made by *st* (scientist), *sk* (desk), *ck* (check), *nd* (hand), *nk* (rink), and *th* (width). The plural ending of words ending in these sounds is not easily heard; however, the *s* must be present to denote plurality. In addition, nouns that follow plural markers such as *these*, *those*, plural numbers such as *two* or *six*, *some*, *many*, *few*, *a number of*, or *a majority of* must always be plural.

Read the following sentences to see if the endings of any of the nouns or verbs are missing.

The scientist are forced to work in an antiquated laboratory.

These disk cost too much.

In this episode of the soap opera, Jack whisk Jill away in his jet and ask her to marry him.

A number of dentist have agreed to give dental checkups to underprivileged children.

Wooden desk often crack in dry weather.

Sue pick up two sack full of shells from the beach.