

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.