

Presentation Exercise: Grammar Preview 3 (Verbs)

Fill in the Blank. The main verb in a sentence is the word which represents the sentence's

_____.

True or False. Sentences often contain more than one verb and sometimes more than one main verb.

Fill in the Blanks. Verbs are the only part of speech which can change _____ or timeframe. Adding the word _____ makes a verb future and the words _____ or _____ make a verb past.

Fill in the Blank. Verbs can be replaced by forms of the word _____.

Underline the nouns and double-underline the adjectives in the sentence below, then circle the verbs:

1. Then ancient Romans conquered the Mediterranean world.
2. Would sensible people in pre-Roman times have ever guessed that Rome would one day rule the whole Italian peninsula?

Underline the nouns and double-underline the adjectives in the paragraphs below, then circle the verbs:

The early Romans ousted foreign kings and established a representative government led by executive officers and a legislative assembly of elders called the Senate. This state was not as democratic as it seems, because the only people who got a permanent seat in the Roman Senate had great wealth.

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Extended families of aristocratic extraction called *gentes* maintained absolute control over Rome throughout its early "Republican" history, a situation that lasted a half millennium until two such families, the Julians and the Claudians, established themselves as sole rulers in the first century, giving rise to the Roman "Empire."

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Instead, they spent their energy waging violent war with other peoples. They gained a reputation as tenacious fighters and developed an impressive system of warfare for a nation their size. They also had a powerful weapon, the legion, a battle formation quite complex for its age and requiring considerable time to learn.

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Most battles in the days when Rome was young were fought in long, haphazard lines. The Thebans and later Alexander the Great had brought greater order to military formation, but their contributions consisted of simple innovations, stacking a line at one end or creating a huge block of men.

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The Roman legion employed a flexible arrangement of men who were organized into sub-groups which could be moved as independent units about the battlefield. This design and the dedication of the Romans to physical might were important contributing factors in making them the conquerors of the Mediterranean world.

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The greatest triumph that the early Romans achieved was the defeat of Carthage, a rival trading empire in North Africa. This conflict, actually a series of conflicts called the "Punic Wars," was to a large extent fought at sea, forcing the Romans to develop a full navy for the first time in their history.

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The decisive battles, however, were fought on land, as when the Carthaginian general Hannibal and his elephants invaded Italy and later when the Romans attacked the area around Carthage and were victorious. In the second century (200-100 BCE) the Romans spread into Greece where they came into contact with eastern ways of life.

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Greek philosophers, poets and playwrights flooded into Rome and began teaching ways of life foreign to the rustic Romans. The invasion of new types of learning led to a cultural crisis in Rome, whether to stand by their traditional, time-tested, conservative "Roman" *mores* or to take up new, exotic, dangerous and delightful "Greek" habits.

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As time passed, the Romans came to see the Greeks as corrupters who wished to spoil them with outlandish pleasures and with all their oriental double-talk undermine the simple virtues that had once made Rome great. Thus, the fabric of Roman society began to unravel and fray.

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Worse yet, these ideological struggles in the 100's BCE boiled over into military conflicts in the next century. For the first time in their history, Roman met Roman on the battlefield, and the outcome was nothing less than the destruction of the Republic and the establishment of a more peaceful but at heart autocratic empire.