

Last night the lights **dimmed** at eight o'clock. I **hurried** to the kitchen to find a candle. Then the power **failed**. I **wrapped** up in a blanket and **used** a candle to read by.

The words in **bold type** above are base words with the ending *-ed* added. They are verbs that tell what someone or something did in the past. To change many verbs to the past, you simply add the ending *-ed* to the base word. In some cases the base word changes before the *-ed* is added. Here are four rules to help you change certain verbs from present to past.

- Add the ending *-ed* to some verbs (fail, failed).
- If a verb ends in silent *e*, drop the *e* and add *-ed* (use, used).
- If a verb ends in a consonant plus *y*, change the *y* to *i* and add *-ed* (hurry, hurried).
- If a one-syllable verb contains a single vowel and ends in a single consonant, double the consonant and add *-ed* (dim, dimmed).

Number your paper from 1 to 12. Read each sentence, and look at the numbered base word in **bold type**. Write the past form of the verb on your paper. Use the rules to help you.

The cat **1** **hunt** a mouse in the tall grass.  
I **2** **smile** when I saw the mouse escape.

"I **3** **tag** you," Regina **4** **yell** to Morris. "No way!"  
Morris **5** **shout** back. "I **6** **leap** over your hand."

Marylyn **7** **dry** her hair in the sun after swimming class. Water **8** **drip** all over her jacket.

The twins **9** **skate** past our group. "We **10** **watch** them skate in a show," someone said.

Allen **11** **carry** his coat to that game. He had **12** **rip** it on a nail.

A suffix comes at the end of a root or a base word and modifies its meaning. The following suffixes relate to people and their positions:

- er* means "one who" or "that which" (teacher)
- ee* means "one who receives the action" (trustee)
- eer* means "one associated or concerned with something" (engineer)

Number your paper from 13 to 18. Write the word that fits the definition and uses one of the above suffixes.

- 13** Someone who is employed
- 14** Someone who receives a nomination
- 15** Something that amplifies
- 16** Someone who sings ballads
- 17** Someone who works at a bank
- 18** Someone who seeks refuge

## Skill Builder Key Card

### L E S S O N 3

- 1 hunted
- 2 smiled
- 3 tagged
- 4 yelled
- 5 shouted
- 6 leaped
- 7 dried
- 8 dripped
- 9 skated
- 10 watched
- 11 carried
- 12 ripped
- 13 employee
- 14 nominee
- 15 amplifier
- 16 balladeer
- 17 banker
- 18 refugee