Lesson 2: To the Teacher

Key to traditional terms			
Base	Base		
Ving	Present Participle		
DTN	Past Participle		
VxO	Simple Present (do)		
Vx5	Simple Present, 3 rd		
person singular (does)			
$V \times D$	Simple Past (did)		

Lesson 2 looks at all of the forms of the verb, not just the BASE-PAST-PAST PARTICPLE (go-went-gone) that we see in lists.

This books uses 6 forms. Other X-Word people prefer 5 and count the Base form and the VxO (simple) as one. I like 6 because in other languages there's a big difference between a base

form and a present tense and it helps to have that reflected here.

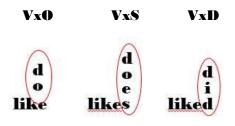
DTN refers to the last letter of all past participles:

She has wanted

He has slept

We have written

VxO, VxS, VxD refer to the last letter of the X-Words that are "hiding" behind them.



I've adopted the abbreviations that are used by other X-Word people in their books.
Originally the abbreviations in this book were
Vb, Ving, Vpp, VnoS

In charts we grouped them into those that always appear with an X-Word:

Base Ving DTN

And those that have hidden X-words (do, does, did)

VxO VxS VxD

To practice:

Index cards: I use a list of the **50 most common verbs** from the BYU Corpus (see below) and sort them by pattern (a Korean student introduced me to this way of learning irregular verbs)

B HART 2016

Lesson 2 The 6 Forms of the Verb

- 1. Buy colored 4" X 6" index cards.
- 2. Write the infinitive of the verb on the front according to this scheme: Pink=regular verbs; Blue=ABB verbs (e.g., make) Yellow=ABC and ABA verbs (e.g., go and come); Green=AAA verbs (e.g., cut) They will get to know that Green are the "easy" ones, Yellow the "crazy" ones, etc.
- 3. On the back write each of the 6 forms of the verb.
- 4. More advanced students can do this for you.
- 5. Let students write the meaning in their own language(s) in one corner. (Don't worry, they will correct each other if there are any errors!)
- 6. With the teacher's help, they write a sample sentence.

Examp	le
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		Vb Ving DTN VxO Vx5 VxD go going gone go goes went
to go		Alex went home after class.
		ir

Using the cards

These are great when you have an awkward amount of time to fill.

- In pairs or small groups, let one student be the teacher and prompt for each of the six forms of the verb. The Vb? "go" Ving? Going
- More advanced students can give an xword and the appropriate verb form, or a short sentence.
- Have the student teacher prompt with a Subject and X-Word. I am? "going"
 They can? "go"
- Have the student teacher prompt with an X-Word and "negative," "Yes/No Question," or "Information question" Should negative. "He shouldn't be late."
- Have the student teacher ask for a sentence, negative sentence, etc.
- For a short writing challenge, shuffle the cards and give each pair of students 5 cards at random. Give them X minutes to write a story using as many of the 5 verbs as possible. (It doesn't have to make sense!) They can read them aloud. For fun the "silent" partner can hold up a card as the verb is read.

B HART 2016 2

The 50 most common Verbs

sorted by pattern

Regular	Irregular					
ABB	ABB	ABC	ABA	AAA	8 forms	
ask	1. have	1. do	become	let	be	
believe	2. think	2. go	come	put		
call	3. say	3. get	run			
happen	4. make	4. know				
help	5. find	5. take				
like	6. tell	6. see				
live	7. feel	7. give				
look	8. leave	8. begin				
move	9. mean	9. write				
need	10. keep					
pay	11. hear					
play	12. hold					
provide	13. bring					
seem	14. sit					
show						
start						
talk						
try						
turn						
use						
want						
work						
ABB, ABC, etc. refer to the pattern of Vb-VxD-DTN						
Example:						
have <u>had had</u> → ABB						
give <u>gave</u> <u>given</u> →ABC						

Source: BYU Corpus of Contemporary American English http://corpus.byu.edu/coca

B HART 2016 3

To Be

To be is the only verb in English with 8 forms. Unfortunately, it's the first (and often the only) verb that many students learn. It's card has to be special in some way-color, decorations, glitter pen—whatever you have.

Have a sample sentence for each of the three uses:

X+Ving, X+describer, X+DTN (passive)

	Vb Ving DTN VxO VxS VxD be being been am is was are were			
to be	I <u>am studying</u> . She <u>was</u> a good student. He <u>was given</u> a prize by the college.			

A couple of things about "to be":

- The "s" endings are still "strictly singular"
- In more advanced verb phrases, be, being, been, and have are used as middle X-Words. → Our super should have painted our apartment two years ago.
- There's always a be + DTN in a passive construction >
- Our apartment should have been painted (by the lazy super) two years ago.

B HART 2016 4