English verbs are traditionally divided into two great classes, according to the way they form their past tense and past participle:

- **Strong** (or irregular) verbs are so called because they have within themselves the resources to indicate a change in tense without recourse to an ending. Such verbs usually form their past tense through a change in vowel and form their past participle by adding -n or -en, along with the vowel shift. Examples are *begun, began, begun; write, wrote, written.*

- **Weak** (or regular) verbs exhibit a pattern in which the root-vowel never changes, but -d, -ed, or -t are affixed to form the past tense and past participle. Examples are *finish, finished, finished; walk, walked, walked.*

Finally, there is a special class of verbs that show both strong and weak characteristics in that they add a -d or -t to form their past tense but may also undergo a vowel change. Examples are *lose, lost, lost; teach, taught, taught.*

The history of the language is marked by a progressive winning out of the weak verb form over the strong. Thus, Old English *help an, healp, holpen* has become *help, helped, helped,* and, except in the most poetic of settings, *crowed* has supplanted *crow* as the past tense of *to crow.* Moreover, we have come to accept the weak verbs as the "normal" pattern so that all new verbs that enter the language are invariably conjugated weakly, *radioed and televised* being two twentieth century instances.

Despite this trend, we shake our heads and our fingers at the illiterate who uses *knewed* for *knew,* *goed* for *went,* or *seed* for *saw,* and we smile patronizingly at the little child who innocently creates *drawed,* *teached,* and *writed.*

The ten -ed past tense verbs that follow may look like the abusing or amusing coinages of an unschooled adult or child; but they are, in fact, perfectly legitimate forms in their proper settings. Before looking at Answers and Solutions, try to use each verb correctly in an English sentence.

**FLIED LEAVED RINGED SPITTET TREADED**

**HANGED LETTED SHINED STICKED WEAVED**