Task: Maintaining Consistent Verb Tense

Situation: This is a simple grammar exercise to be used with clients who need/want help with verb tense consistency. If you are uncertain as to whether the cause of the problem is ignorance or carelessness, how quickly and correctly the client can complete this task will help you to figure out whether to help by offering more grammar education, or by encouraging the client to pay more attention when forming sentences.

Instructions: Each of the following sentences contains at least one verb with an unfinished ending (indicated by (?)). Have the client write out the complete form for each unfinished verb; allow 5-10 minutes for this. Then go over the answers with the client. Remember that there may be more than one correct combination in some cases.

Outcome: For clients who are having problem choosing the correct form of the verb, your discussion after they complete the task may help clarify a muddled sense of how verbs in compound/complex sentences need to work together; for clients who can do the exercise quickly and correctly, but whose drafts are hopelessly out-of-sync with respect to verbs, the exercise may help them to realize they know more than they thought they did.

1. The overworked student admit(?) that he ha(?) bit(?) off more than he could chew.
2. The proud student still wants to talk about the paper he wr(?) in his History class last month.
3. The hard-working student will ha(?) finish(?) his work before the lazy student ha(?) beg(?).
4. The angry student w(?) very disappoint(?) with his grade, because he ha(?) stud(?) hard.
5. As the hurried student was noisily pack(?) his bag yesterday, the professor dismiss(?) class.
6. If the sleepy student ha(?) listen(?) better in class, she w(?) ha(?) d(?) better on the test.
7. The sad student hopes that next year her luck w(?) chang(?).
8. Soon after the nervous student check(?) his watch, the TA pass(?) out the exams.
9. By next week the hopeful student w(?) ha(?) hear(?) from the graduate program.
10. Although I ha(?) warn(?) her not to, the careless student le(?) her calculator at home.
11. The indecisive student c(?) not answe(?) when the professor ask(?) a question.
12. The patient student sa(?) there w(?) b(?) plenty of time to writ(?) the paper.