



# VERB TENSES

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## 1. SIMPLE PRESENT: simple form of the verb

The simple present expresses events or situations that are *always or usually true*; it also expresses *general statements of fact*.

Samples:

John and Mary usually **talk** to each other on the phone three or four times a week.

The baby **takes** a nap every afternoon.

## 2. PRESENT PROGRESSIVE: *am, is or are* + present participle

The present progressive emphasizes that an activity is *in progress at the present time*. The present progressive also shows a *general activity occurring during the present time period*.

Samples:

John and Mary **are talking** on the phone right now.

Pat **is taking** five courses this semester.

## 3. PRESENT PERFECT: *have or has* + past participle

The present perfect shows that an event happened at an *unspecified time in the past*. The present perfect also shows the *repetition of an activity before now*.

Samples:

**Have** you ever **eaten** snails?

I **have** already **taken** that course.

We **have written** three papers so far this semester.

## 4. PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE: *have been or has been* + present participle

The present perfect progressive *emphasizes the duration* of an activity that began in the past and continues to the present. It can also indicate a *general activity in progress recently*.

Samples:

It **has been raining** all day.

Pat **has been working** a lot lately.

- 5. SIMPLE PAST:** *-ed* at the end of the simple form of regular verbs; irregular verbs change form in the simple past tense.

The simple past indicates an activity *completed at a particular time in the past*.

Samples:

John **watched** three movies last week.

I **woke** up early yesterday.

- 6. PAST PROGRESSIVE:** *was* or *were* + present participle

The past progressive shows a *past activity in progress at the same time as another past activity*.

Samples:

I **was working** on the computer when the power went out.

While Pat **was studying** in the library, Chris **was writing** a paper.

- 7. PAST PERFECT:** *had* + past participle

The past perfect shows *the completion of one activity in the past before another past activity or time*.

Samples:

The movie **had** already **started** by the time we got there.

Peter **had studied** hard, so he was prepared for the test.

- 8. PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE:** *had been* + present participle

The past perfect progressive emphasizes the *duration of an activity that started before another past time or activity*.

Sample:

I **had been waiting** for the repairman six hours before he finally came.

**9. SIMPLE FUTURE:** *will/shall/be going to* + simple form of the verb

The simple future shows that an action or event *will take place at a future time*.

Samples:

I **shall call** her tomorrow.

Peter **will stop** at the store on his way home.

Jean **is going to visit** Europe next year.

**10. FUTURE PROGRESSIVE:** *will be/be going to be* + present participle

The future progressive shows an activity *in progress* at a time *in the future*.

Samples:

What **will you be doing** tomorrow at 2:00?

I **am going to be studying** in the library tomorrow afternoon.

**11. FUTURE PERFECT:** *will have* + past participle

The future perfect indicates that a *future event* will be *completed before another future event or time*.

Sample:

I will see you again in August. By then, I **will have graduated**.

**12. FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE:** *will have been* + present participle

The future perfect progressive emphasizes the *duration of a future activity in progress before another future activity or time*.

Sample:

When Joe retires next year, he **will have been working** for thirty years.

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