

VERBS TENSES

RECALL: WHAT IS A VERB ?

VERB

A VERB is a word that expresses action or helps make a statement, telling something about the subject.



ACTION VERB Examples: jump, run, shout, say, bring, play, study

HELPING VERB Examples: be, am, is, are, was, were, have, has, had

LINKING VERB Examples: can be, have been, become, appear, stay, seem, remain, look, feel



Since all VERBS make a statement about their subjects, they indicate when the time of the action takes place. This is called VERB TENSE. We'll look at 3 simple VERB TENSES as well as their continuous forms that are called the Progressive.

Present Tense: This expresses action (or statement) occurring *now*, at the present time.

Present Progressive: This is part of the Present Tense that shows an action that is continuously occurring. This is formed by adding the helping verb *-is -am -are* or *-has been* or *have been* to the main verb.

Identify the complete Present Progressive in each sentence below, and write it on the line provided:

Example: am throwing ex. I am throwing the shot put in today's track meet.

- _____ 1. I am rehearsing the play today.
- _____ 2. She is running two miles each day.
- _____ 3. We have been doing our homework regularly for that class.
- _____ 4. They have been talking to their friends in the hallway.
- _____ 5. Those leaves are falling gently from the trees.
- _____ 6. She is taking the make-up test this morning.
- _____ 7. I am writing a report on nutritional foods.
- _____ 8. My parents are driving me to school.



Past Tense: This expresses action (or statement) that occurred in the past, but did not continue into the present. The PAST TENSE is regularly formed by adding **-d** or **-ed** to a verb. But watch out – there are some irregularly formed past tense verbs!

Change each of the Present Tense Verbs into **PAST TENSE VERBS** and write them on the lines:

- | | | | |
|-------|------------|-------|------------|
| _____ | 1. talk | _____ | 2. dream |
| _____ | 3. jump | _____ | 4. climb |
| _____ | 5. run | _____ | 6. swim |
| _____ | 7. write | _____ | 8. steal |
| _____ | 9. break | _____ | 10. choose |
| _____ | 11. ring | _____ | 12. drive |
| _____ | 13. ride | _____ | 14. freeze |
| _____ | 15. drink | _____ | 16. fall |
| _____ | 17. shrink | _____ | 18. speak |
| _____ | 19. do | _____ | 20. go |

Past Progressive: This is part of the Past Tense that shows an action that continuously occurred in the past. This is formed by adding the helping verb **-was** **-were** or **-had been** to the main verb.

Identify the complete Past Progressive in each sentence below, and write it on the line provided:

Ex: were bringing ex. We were bringing the dessert to the pot-luck dinner.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | 1. Larry was participating in the chess club. |
| _____ | 2. They were training every day for the marathon. |
| _____ | 3. Gary had been reading all summer. |
| _____ | 4. Sally was revising her essay to make the ideas more clear. |
| _____ | 5. My friends had been washing the dishes after mealtimes. |
| _____ | 6. The fisherman was casting a line into the stream. |
| _____ | 7. I had been talking to my science teacher about extra credit. |



Future Tense: This expresses action (or statement) that will occur at some time in the future. The FUTURE TENSE is regularly formed by adding *-will* or *-shall* (and *won't* or *I'll*) to a verb.

Identify the **FUTURE TENSE VERBS** in each sentence below and write them on the lines provided:

- _____ 1. He will send you the information when he gets it.
_____ 2. I won't do your homework for you.
_____ 3. My sister will call when she arrives.
_____ 4. I'll make some sandwiches for us.
_____ 5. She'll talk to her teacher about her grade.



What happens when the sentence is a question? The parts of the verb tense are split up!

Ex: will finish ex. **Will** you **finish** the project tomorrow?

- _____ 6. Shall I call the athletic trainer for the injured player?
_____ 7. Won't you share the popcorn with me?
_____ 8. Will the circus arrive this weekend?

Other ways to indicate Future Tense: Adding the helper *-am* or *-are* to the verb *-are going* along with the infinitive form can show future time. There are also specific words to indicate time, such as: next month, tomorrow, later today, two years from now, etc.

Identify the complete Future Tense Verb in each sentence below, and write it on the line provided:

Ex: is going to spend ex. He **is going to spend** his vacation in Hawaii.

- _____ 1. Stella is going to pass her test in algebra.
_____ 2. Her brothers are playing in the game next Tuesday.
_____ 3. I am wishing to be a doctor when I finish college.
_____ 4. We are going to meet at 6 PM.
_____ 5. That new movie will win several Academy Awards.
_____ 6. The twins are going to start school next year.

Future Progressive: This is part of the Future Tense that shows an action that will occur continuously in the future. This is formed by adding the helping verb **-will be** or **-will have been** or **-shall be** or **-shall have been** to the main verb.

Identify the complete Future Progressive in each sentence below, and write it on the line provided:

Ex: will be discussing ex. Suzie **will be discussing** her questions at the writer's conference.

- _____ 1. My teacher will be grading the essays this evening.
_____ 2. Our puppy shall be staying at the kennel while we're on vacation.
_____ 3. The team will be working on a new secret play.
_____ 4. At 8:00 PM tonight, John will be washing the dishes.
_____ 5. We will be meeting Mom for dinner at the restaurant.

What happens when the sentence is a question? The parts of the verb tense are split up!

Ex: will be waiting ex. **Will** you **be waiting** for her when the plane arrives tonight?

- _____ 6. Will we be driving through the desert at night to stay cool?
_____ 7. Won't the plane be departing in an hour?
_____ 8. Shall I be carrying the bag of dog food into the house?



Write the correct Verb Tense form of the word (in parentheses) that best completes each sentence:

Ex: has been working ex. My dad _____ for this company for 30 years. (work – *present progressive*)

- _____ 1. When Carol _____ last night, I was watching my favorite show. (call - *past*)
_____ 2. We _____ late because we had some car problems. (arrive – *future*)
_____ 3. Last year, Jim _____ the newspaper every morning. (read – *past progressive*)
_____ 4. My sister _____ to listen to the radio. (love - *present*)
_____ 5. Dad _____ Mom out to dinner for their anniversary. (take - *future*)
_____ 6. My friends _____ at the game Friday night. (meet – *future progressive*)
_____ 7. My sister set the table while I _____ the dinner. (prepare - *past*)
_____ 8. Lisa _____ for a high-paying job. (apply – *present progressive*)

Choosing the correct Verb Tense: choose the letter of the correct **VERB TENSE** that fits the blank in the sentence.

- _____ 1. When you arrive in Chicago, call my friend Gus who will _____ you around the city.
a. showed b. have shown c. shows d. show
- _____ 2. Today after practice, I _____ to a movie with some friends.
a. will go b. go c. going d. am gone
- _____ 3. Do you know what you want to do after you _____ from school?
a. are graduating b. graduated c. graduate d. graduates
- _____ 4. If it _____ this weekend, we're going to ski at Boyne Highlands.
a. is snow b. snows c. are snowing d. snowed
- _____ 5. Your father _____ you in the parking lot after school gets out.
a. met b. meets c. should have met d. will meet
- _____ 6. Tina _____ my house a few days ago.
a. called b. calls c. will call d. may call
- _____ 7. My cousin _____ her job so she could go back to college and earn a new degree.
a. quit b. quits c. have quit d. did quit
- _____ 8. I promise you that I _____ your secret to anybody.
a. telled b. told c. won't tell d. willn't
- _____ 9. My friend from downstate _____ with us for two weeks this upcoming summer.
a. stay b. stayed c. stays d. will stay
- _____ 10. If Vera _____ failing her quizzes, she'll end up failing the entire semester.
a. keep b. is keping c. kept d. keeps
- _____ 11. Two mean girls _____ spreading rumors about people in their class.
a. been b. have been c. was being d. being
- _____ 12. Patty _____ here for only a month before she moved.
a. lives b. lived c. should have lived d. will live
- _____ 13. Ken _____ in town all summer.
a. will be b. be c. being d. have been
- _____ 14. The weekend bus will _____ on time as usual.
a. shall arrive b. be arrive c. arrived d. arrive
- _____ 15. I _____ talking to the other students about how tough the homework is.
a. been b. being c. will been d. had been

CONSISTENCY OF VERB TENSE: Young writers sometimes begin their stories or essays in one tense and then lapse into another tense. This is usually caused by carelessness.

Careless: Roy raised his telescope and sees a large bear as it raced back to the woods.

Correct: Roy raised his telescope and saw a large bear as it raced back to the woods.

or:

Correct: Roy raises his telescope and sees a large bear as it races back to the woods.

Each sentence has an underlined mistake in verb tense. Write the correct verb tense on the line:

Ex: occurred One of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War occurs in 1777.

1. _____ The British troops set up camp near Saratoga, New York, and is planning to march toward Albany.

2. _____ The American militia have weakened the British in a recent ambush.

3. _____ Bound by orders from London, the British general risks the attack on Albany despite his diminished army.

4. _____ Outside Saratoga, the Americans gathering reinforcements and supplies.

5. _____ The American forces outnumber their enemies by a margin of two to one.

6. _____ The Americans are equipped far better than the British, whose provisions are badly depleted.

7. _____ In spite of these disadvantages, the British open an attack on September 19.

8. _____ After four hours of fierce fighting, the Americans withdraw.

9. _____ But the British have suffering serious losses, including many officers.

10. _____ They leads a fresh attack against the Americans on October 7, but the British endured even worse casualties.

11. _____ Before the British could retreat, they are surround by the American forces.

12. _____ Trapped and helpless, the British negotiate their surrender.

13. _____ The Convention of Saratoga, whereby six thousand British troops were given up, is signed on October 17.

14. _____ The Battle of Saratoga becomes a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

15. _____ Six years later, in 1783, the British signed a peace treaty with the Americans, and the Revolutionary War ends.

