

## TENSE

Tense refers to the changes in verb form that express distinctions of time. There are six tense present, past, future, present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect.

The tenses of verbs are formed from their three principal parts : infinitive, past tense form, and past participle with the help of one or more auxiliary verbs. Thus, if you learn the principal parts of the commonly used verbs and the auxiliary verbs that are used to form the various tenses, you will be able to express any distinction of time that is required by the sentence meaning.

### Present Tense

The tense expresses an action or state of being that exists now; it may also indicate habitual, emphatic, or, somewhat informally, future action (for example, "I *leave* for Rome tomorrow.")

I **attend** concerts regularly. (present tense)

I **am singing** the song. (present tense)

I **walk** to school every day. (habitual action)

I **do study** hard for finals. (emphatic action)

I **live** in Boston. (state of being—present tense)

When the **to** (the sign of the infinitive) is dropped, a form known as the **simple infinitive** or **present stem** is the result. **To go** becomes **go**; **to walk** becomes **walk**. This form is the present tense in all persons (singular and plural) except for the third person singular, where **-s** or **-es** is added to the present stem or simple infinitive: **sings, goes, sees, does**.

### Simple Present Tense

<b>Person</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<b>First</b>	<i>I walk</i>	<i>we walk</i>
<b>Second</b>	<i>you walk</i>	<i>you walk</i>
<b>Third</b>	<i>he, she, it walks</i>	<i>they walk</i>

Present stem **walk, walk + -s**

### Past Tense

This tense expresses complete action in the past. It is formed by adding **-d, -ed, or -t** to the present stem.

### Simple Past Tense

<b>Person</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<b>First</b>	<i>I walked</i>	<i>we walked</i>
<b>Second</b>	<i>you walked</i>	<i>you walked</i>
<b>Third</b>	<i>he, she, it walked t</i>	<i>hey walked</i>

### Future Tense

This expresses action that occurs sometimes in the future . It is formed with the auxiliary

**shall** or **will** and the present stem.

### Simple Future Tense

Person	Singular	Plural
First I	<i>shall/will walk</i>	<i>we shall/will walk</i>
Second	<i>you will walk</i>	<i>we will walk</i>
Third	<i>he, she, it will walk</i>	<i>they will walk</i>

EX:

We *shall/will* go tomorrow.

He *will* leave later in the day

### RECOGNIZING THE PERFECT TENSES

The three perfect tenses are present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect. They express action *perfected* or *completed* at a definite time. The third principal part (past participle) is used informing all of the perfect tenses.

The past participle is always used with a helper to form the perfect tenses.

The present perfect tense expresses action completed at the present time or continuing into the present. *He has driven a truck for many years* (continuing action).

The present perfect is formed by using **have** with the past participle except in the third person singular where **has** is used: I **have** seen, you **have** seen, he **has** seen, we **have** seen, you **have** seen, they **have** seen.

The past perfect tense expresses action completed before a stated or known time in the past.

The past perfect is formed by using **had** with the past participle: I **had** seen you, you **had** seen, he **had** seen, we **had** seen, they **had** seen.

The future perfect tense expresses action which will be completed before a definite time in the future .

The future perfect is formed by using **shall have** or **will have** with the past participle: I **shall have** seen, you **will have** seen, they **will have** seen.

### EXERCISE

Tell the tense of each verb in boldface by writing **pr p** for present perfect, **pp** for past perfect, and **fp** for future perfect. **Examples:** pr p Liz has broken her ankle.

1. **Has** the bell **rung**? 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The squirrels **had fled**. 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. All the pipes **had burst**. 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Surely he **will have eaten** by seven o'clock. 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. He **has** always **grown** corn for cattle fodder. 5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Where **have** they **hidden** the gifts? 6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Had** he ever **flown** in a helicopter before? 7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. By this time tomorrow **I shall have given** my report. 8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. She **had written** her report before class started. 9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The group **will have taken** their tests by Tuesday. 10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. We **had** already **brought** our home movies to class. 11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. **Have** you ever **swum** in the Pacific Ocean? 12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. The child **had fallen**, but he hadn't hurt himself. 13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. **Have** you **worn** your new sweater? 14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. The opponents **had fought** three rounds before being stopped. 15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. By evening the traffic **will have begun** to decrease. 16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. We **shall have gone** to Detroit before June. 17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. **Have** you **heard** the good news? 18. \_\_\_\_\_
19. You **have torn** your new shirt. 19. \_\_\_\_\_
20. The wind **has** not **blown** so hard in years. 20. \_\_\_\_\_
21. He **will have gone** several hundred miles by the time he returns. 21. \_\_\_\_\_
22. Surely they **will have chosen** a ring by then. 22. \_\_\_\_\_
23. Until the fire burned brightly, we **had shivered** from the cold. 23. \_\_\_\_\_
24. She **has spoken** to the group once a year. 24. \_\_\_\_\_
25. He **had drawn** all the illustrations. 25. \_\_\_\_\_