

	<b>SIMPLE</b>	<b>PROGRESSIVE</b>	<b>PERFECT</b>	<b>PERFECT PROGRESSIVE</b>
<b>FUTURE</b>	<p>Future tense expresses an action or situation that will occur in the future.</p> <p>I will walk. You will walk. She/he will walk.</p>	<p>Future progressive tense describes a past action which was happening when another action occurred.</p> <p>I will be walking. You will be walking. She/he will be walking.</p>	<p>Future perfect tense describes an action that took place in the past before another past action.</p> <p>I will have walked. You will have walked. She/he will have walked.</p>	<p>Future perfect progressive tense describes a future, ongoing action that will occur before some specified future time.</p> <p>I will have been walking. You will have been walking. She will have been walking.</p>
<b>PRESENT</b>	<p>Present tense expresses an unchanging, repeated, or reoccurring action or situation that exists only now.</p> <p>I walk. You walk. She/he walks.</p>	<p>Present progressive tense describes an ongoing action that is happening at the same time the statement is written.</p> <p>I am walking. You are walking. She/he is walking.</p>	<p>Present perfect tense describes an action that happened at a past, unfixed time or began in the past and continues in the present.</p> <p>I have walked. You have walked. She/he has walked.</p>	<p>Present perfect progressive tense describes an action that began in the past, continues in the present, and may continue into the future.</p> <p>I have been walking. You have been walking. She/he has been walking.</p>
<b>PAST</b>	<p>Past tense expresses an action or situation that was started and finished in the past.</p> <p>I walked. You walked. She/he walked.</p>	<p>Past progressive tense describes a past action which was happening when another action occurred.</p> <p>I was walking. You were walking. She/he was walking.</p>	<p>Past perfect tense describes an action that took place in the past before another past action.</p> <p>I had walked. You had walked. She/he had walked.</p>	<p>Past perfect progressive tense describes a past, ongoing action that was completed before some other past action.</p> <p>I had been walking. You had been walking. She/he had been walking.</p>

# Verb Tenses and Uses

**Verbs** are used to describe an action, an occurrence, or a state of being and are necessary to make a sentence complete.

When you are writing, the events and actions you are referring to may have taken place in the **past, present or future**. It is important to maintain **consistent verb tense** in sentences, paragraphs, and essays. Here are some examples of inconsistent and consistent verb tenses.

INCORRECT: During the movie, Sam **walked** away and then **drops** his popcorn. *Inconsistent past to present.*

CORRECT: During the movie, Sam **walks** away and then **drops** his popcorn. *Consistent present tense.*

CORRECT: During the movie, Sam **walked** away and then **dropped** his popcorn. *Consistent past tense.*

Because consistency creates better writing, do not switch between verb tenses unless the timing of an action requires that you do. For example, you may say: I **love** (*present tense*) my dog, who I **adopted** (*past tense*) a year ago. It makes sense to switch tenses because you are referring to a constant emotion tied to a past event (*a year ago*).

But verb tenses need to represent more than the simple past, present and future. We need these different versions (**progressive, perfect, perfect progressive**) because the tenses are further categorized depending on whether the **action (or state of being) they describe is in progress or completed**. Examples of sentences in each tense are on the next page.

There are also times when a verb can be used as other parts of the sentence:

## **Gerunds -**

- A gerund is a noun made from a verb. Gerunds always end in *-ing*.
- For example, the gerund form of “walk” is “walking”.
- Gerunds may be the subjects or objects of a sentence.

*For example:*

- **Walking** makes you healthy. *Subject of sentence.*
- I enjoy **walking**. *Object of sentence.*

## **Infinitives -**

- Infinitives are the “to” form of the verb.
- For example, the infinitive form of “walk” is “to walk”.
- Infinitives can be used as subjects or objects of a sentence.

*For example:*

- **To walk** is good for your health. *Subject of sentence.*
- The dog wants **to walk**. *Object of sentence.*