



# Verb Tense

This worksheet covers the basics of English verbs: the five forms, simple tenses, and complex tenses.

**Five Forms of Verbs:** All English verbs come in five forms (except the verb *be*).

Base Form (present)	-s/-es Form	Present Participle	Past Tense	Past Participle
learn	learns	learning	learned	learned
wish	wishes	wishing	wished	wished

Notes: Use the **-s/-es** verb form only with third-person singular subjects.

Participles require a helping or auxiliary verb. (see “Helping (Auxiliary) Verbs” below)

Practice: We often \_\_\_\_\_ to La Victorias. (base form; *go*)

Yesterday, Nikita \_\_\_\_\_ nachos with extra peppers. (past tense; *order*)

The burrito \_\_\_\_\_ orange sauce. (-s form; *need*)

**Simple Tenses:** Simple tenses locate an action *within* one of the three basic time frames.

*Past:* Priyah burned all of my samosas.

*Present:* Tobias orders pizza.

*Future:* Itzel will eat lunch with us tomorrow.

Use the *simple present* to write about current events, habits, actions in literary works, general truths, and sometimes while quoting.

*Action in Literary Works:* Hermione convinces her professor to give her a time-travelling device in the book *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

*When Quoting:* In *Anne of Green Gables*, the author states, “I’m so glad we live in a world where there are Octobers.”

*Exception:* Golda Meir once said to a visiting diplomat, “Don’t be so humble – you are not that great.” (She said it once.)

Practice: Yesterday, Robbie \_\_\_\_\_ about photosynthesis. (*learn*, past)

In *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy \_\_\_\_\_ on the yellow brick road. (*walk*, present)

Tomorrow, Maya \_\_\_\_\_ to her professor. (*talk*, future)



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**Helping (Auxiliary Verbs):** Helping verbs are used with “a base form, present participle, or past participle” in order to make “verb tenses, questions, and negatives.” Some of the most common are forms of *is*, *do*, and *have*.

Examples: We are crunching numbers for Business Calculus.

How long have Kia and Yolanda been working?

Yan has offered much writing assistance.

Modal auxiliaries indicate future actions, possibility, necessity, obligation, and so on. Some examples are *might*, *could*, and *ought*.

Examples: Natasha should be buying winter clothing; I can already feel the cold!

Carrie cannot drive without a license.

Brouline ought to establish credit so that he can get a loan.

Practice: Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ the verb-tense worksheet before his class.

(*must*; base form, *finish*)

Prathima, \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ the eggs? (*do*; base form *enjoy*)

They \_\_\_\_\_ improvements. (*is*; present participle, *see*)

Leo \_\_\_\_\_ at thrift stores before. (*have*; past participle, *shop*)

Currently, René \_\_\_\_\_ the chow fun. (*is*; present participle, *purchase*)

**The Verb *Be*:** There are three forms of *be* in the present tense and two in the past tense.

Base Form	Present Tense	Present Participle	Past Tense	Past Participle
Be	I <i>am</i> He/ she/ it <i>is</i> We/ you/ they <i>are</i>	Being	I/ he/ she/ it <i>was</i> We/ you/ they <i>were</i>	Been

Practice: Who was talking in class? We \_\_\_\_\_ . (past tense)

I have \_\_\_\_\_ at the laundromat all day. (past participle)

I \_\_\_\_\_ here now. Paul and Yosef \_\_\_\_\_ here too. (present tense)



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**Complex Tenses:** Complex tenses locate an action outside of only one time frame; they continue through *more than one time frame*. They use the verb “to be” plus an action verb.

*Progressive:* expresses continuing action

*Perfect:* expresses actions completed before another action or time in the present/ past/ future

*Perfect Progressive:* expresses actions that continue up to some point in the present/ past/ future

	<b>Progressive</b>	<b>Perfect</b>	<b>Perfect Progressive</b>
<b>Past</b>	August was writing.	Drake had written.	Jane had been writing.
<b>Present</b>	Phuong is reading.	Deanna has read.	Mr. Lee has been reading.
<b>Future</b>	Shivam will be eating.	Tova will have eaten.	Ramón will have been eating.

Practice:

Andrea \_\_\_\_\_ data when I interrupted her.

(past progressive, *enter*)

Anh \_\_\_\_\_ her snack right now.

(present progressive, *make*)

Tomorrow from 10 to 11 am, Luana \_\_\_\_\_ with her group to study.

(future progressive, *meet*)

Hayri and Dom are ready to go. They \_\_\_\_\_ their bags.

(present perfect, *pack*)

Gabriel thinks that Nydia \_\_\_\_\_ dishes for a while by the time he arrives.

(future perfect progressive, *wash*)

Thai \_\_\_\_\_ his homework by the time you text him.

(future perfect, *finish*)

Chris \_\_\_\_\_ his laundry for a few hours when Aliah caught him.

(past perfect progressive, *fold*)