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*).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Form (present)</th>
<th>-s/-es Form</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>learn</td>
<td>learns</td>
<td>learning</td>
<td>learned</td>
<td>learned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wish</td>
<td>wishes</td>
<td>wishing</td>
<td>wished</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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*)

Adapted from *The Everyday Writer,* 5th Edition by Andrea A. Lunsford.
**Verb Tense**

**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)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Form</th>
<th>Present Tense</th>
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<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be</td>
<td><strong>I am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Being</strong></td>
<td>I/ he/ she/ it was</td>
<td>Been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>He/ she/ it is</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>We/ you/ they were</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>We/ you/ they are</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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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**Verb Tense**

**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
  - *Past:* August was writing.
  - *Present:* Phuong is reading.
  - *Future:* Shivam will be eating.

- **Perfect**: expresses actions completed before another action or time in the present/ past/ future
  - *Past:* Drake had written.
  - *Present:* Deanna has read.
  - *Future:* Tova will have eaten.

- **Perfect Progressive**: expresses actions that continue up to some point in the present/ past/ future
  - *Past:* Jane had been writing.
  - *Present:* Mr. Lee has been reading.
  - *Future:* 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)

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