

VERB TENSES

Delgado Community College

What are verb tenses? The tense of a verb indicates when the action of the verb takes place: at the present time, in the past, or in the future.

Tense	Example	Tense	Example
Present	I eat.	Present Perfect	I have eaten.
Past	I ate.	Past Perfect	I had eaten.
Future	I will eat.	Future Perfect	I will have eaten.

Regular verbs form their past tense and their past participle by adding a -t, -d, or -ed.

Infinitive	Past Tense	Past Participle
To watch	watched	watched
To burn	burned or burnt	burned or burnt

Irregular verbs have unpredictable parts. These are usually learned by listening as we grow up

Infinitive	Past Tense	Past Participle
To be	was	been
To sing	sang	sung
To drink	drank	drunk

Tense	Form	Example
PRESENT	Simple present	She watches the Saints game.
	Present progressive	She is watching the Saints game.
	Present emphatic	She does watch the Saints game.
PAST	Simple Past	She watched the Saints game.
	Past Progressive	She was watching the Saints game.
	Past Emphatic	She did watch the Saints game.
	Present Perfect	She has watched the Saints game.
PAST PERFECT	Used to express an action completed before another.	She had watched the Saints game before she started laundry.
FUTURE	Used to describe an action to come.	She will watch the Saints game.

Use progressive tenses to indicate continued action.

Tense	Example	Tense	Example
Present Progressive	She is watching	Present Perfect Progressive	She has been watching.
Past Progressive	She was watching	Past Perfect Progressive	She will be watching.
Future Progressive	She will be watching	Future Perfect Progressive	She will have been watching.