

English V

Summary of Verb Tense Forms

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Lesson 2

Three Basic Verb Tenses

- **Present**
- **Past**
- **Future**

Simple Forms

Present tense expresses an unchanging, repeated, or reoccurring action or situation that exists only now. It can also represent a general truth/fact.

Example

The mountains are tall and white.

Every year, the school council elects new members.

Pb is the chemical symbol for lead.

Meaning

Unchanging action

Recurring action

Widespread truth

Simple Forms

Past tense expresses an action or situation that was started in the past and is finished. Most past tense verbs end in **-ed**. The irregular verbs have **special past tense forms** which must be memorized.

Example

World War II ended in 1945.

Form

Regular -ed past

Hemmingway wrote "The Old Man and the Sea." Irregular form

Simple Forms

Future tense expresses an action or situation that will occur in the future. This tense is formed by using **will/shall** (auxiliary verb) with the simple form of the verb.

- The speaker of the House will finish her term in May of 2020.

Simple Forms

The **future tense** can also be expressed by using **am, is, or are** with **going to**.

- The surgeon is going to perform the first heart bypass in Minnesota.

We can also use the present tense form with an adverb or adverbial phrase to show future time.

- The president speaks tomorrow. (Tomorrow is a future time adverb.)

Progressive Forms

Present progressive tense describes an ongoing action that is happening at the same time the statement is written. This tense is formed by using **am/is/are** with the verb form ending in **–ing**.
(present participle)

- The sociologist is examining the effects that discrimination has on society.

Progressive Forms

Past progressive tense describes a past action which was happening when another action occurred. This tense is formed by using **was/were** with the verb form ending in **-ing**. (present participle)

- The explorer was explaining the latest discovery in Egypt when the protests began.

Progressive Forms

Future progressive tense describes an ongoing or continuous action that will take place in the future. This tense is formed by using **will be** or **shall be** with the verb form ending in **-ing**. (present participle)

- Dr. Jones will be presenting ongoing research on ancient languages next week.

Perfect Forms

Present perfect tense describes an action that is completed at an indefinite time in the past, or that began in the past and continues in the present. This tense is formed by using **has/have** with the **past participle** of the verb. Most past participles end in **-ed**. Irregular verbs have special past participles that must be memorized.

Perfect Forms

Present Perfect Tense

Example / (Meaning)

- The researchers have traveled to many countries in order to collect more significant data.
(Completed at an indefinite time)
- Women have voted in the US presidential elections since 1921.
(Continues in the present)

Perfect Forms

Past perfect tense describes an action that took place in the past before another past action. This tense is formed by using **had** with the **past participle** of the verb.

- By the time the troops arrived, the war had ended.

Perfect Forms

Future perfect tense describes an action that will occur in the future before some other action. This tense is formed by using **will have** with the **past participle** of the verb.

- By the time the troops arrive, the combat group will have spent several weeks waiting.

Perfect Progressive Forms

Present perfect progressive tense describes an action that began in the past, continues in the present, and may continue into the future. This tense is formed by using **has/have been** and the **present participle** of the verb (the verb form ending in **-ing**).

- The president has been considering a transfer to the state of Texas where profits would be larger.

Perfect Progressive Forms

Past perfect progressive tense describes a past, ongoing action that was completed before some other past action. This tense is formed by using **had been** and the **present participle** of the verb (the verb form ending in **-ing**).

- Before the budget cuts, the students had been participating in many extracurricular activities.

Perfect Progressive Forms

Future perfect progressive tense describes a future, ongoing action that will occur before some specified future time. This tense is formed by using **will have been** and the **present participle** of the verb (the verb form ending in **-ing**).

- By the year 2020, linguists will have been studying the Indo-European language family for more than 200 years.