



# Grammar

## Verb Tense

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## **Verb Tense**

So many of my students have difficulty keeping their verb tenses consistent when writing essays or summaries. This two-page worksheet improves students' awareness of verb tense and gives them practice maintaining verb tense consistency. It starts with a discussion and examples of verb tense, followed by three different tasks: forming infinitive verbs into past, present, and future tenses; identifying the tenses of given verbs; and finally, correcting verbs' tenses within sentences.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Verb Tense

Make sure you are using the correct verb tense.

The three most common verb tenses are **present**, **past**, and **future**.

If you see a verb and you're not sure what tense it is, you can "test it out" by putting the following words in front of it to see which one sounds right:

For present tense use **Every day**

For past tense use **Yesterday**

For future tense use **Tomorrow**

### Examples:

(present) Every day I eat an apple.

Every day he walks to work.

(past) Yesterday I ate an apple.

Yesterday they walked up the street.

(future) Tomorrow I will eat an apple.

Tomorrow I will walk four miles.

**Directions:** Write the following verbs in the three tenses.

present

past

future

to predict

to drink

to be

**Directions:** Identify the following verbs' tenses as present (pr), past (pa), or future (f).

will find \_\_\_\_ found \_\_\_\_ drank \_\_\_\_ drinks \_\_\_\_ take \_\_\_\_

yelled \_\_\_\_ forget \_\_\_\_ will calculate \_\_\_\_ gave \_\_\_\_ goes \_\_\_\_

said \_\_\_\_ will hope \_\_\_\_ amuse \_\_\_\_ swam \_\_\_\_ generated \_\_\_\_

had \_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_



**Directions:** Change the underlined verbs to the correct tense.

- 1) If there is one thing that we will learn in the 1990's about basking in the sun, it is that the sun's rays can cause irreversible damage leading to cancer.
- 2) Already convinced that she wins the beauty pageant, the young girl acted like a star to the great annoyance of the other contestants and the judges.
- 3) While those who choreographed the piece felt frustrated with the performance, the dancers themselves feel most satisfied with their routine.
- 4) Before she moves away from the ocean, Denise enjoys many lazy days lounging on the beach, watching the waves, and soaking up the sun.
- 5) Thirty years after the lawn shop was opened in Sturgeon Square, the business had to be shut down when much of the inventory is demolished by torrential rains and flooding.
- 6) Because she will be traveling when her home was burglarized, Sandy is determined to hire someone to watch her house when she leaves town on future business trips.
- 7) Squids are mistakenly believed to be unintelligent because they will be portrayed in movies as dumb and aggressive; in reality, however, they were highly intelligent and are aggressive only when threatened.
- 8) The issue of whether homeopathic remedies actually cure illness or simply reduced symptoms is still being investigated.



## Verb Tense—Answer Key

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(past) Yesterday I ate an apple.

Yesterday they walked up the street.

(future) Tomorrow I will eat an apple.

Tomorrow I will walk four miles.

**Directions:** Write the following verbs in the 3 tenses.

	<u>present</u>	<u>past</u>	<u>future</u>
to predict	predict	predicted	will predict
to drink	drink	drank	will drink
to be (for "I")	am	was	will be

**Directions:** Identify the following verbs' tenses as present (pr), past (pa), or future (f).

will find <u>f</u>	found <u>pa</u>	drank <u>pa</u>	drinks <u>pr</u>	take <u>pr</u>
yelled <u>pa</u>	forget <u>pr</u>	will calculate <u>f</u>	gave <u>pa</u>	goes <u>pr</u>
said <u>pa</u>	will hope <u>f</u>	amuse <u>pr</u>	swam <u>pa</u>	generated <u>pa</u>
had <u>pa</u>	was <u>pa</u>	will be <u>f</u>	is <u>pr</u>	were <u>pa</u>

**Directions:** Change the underlined verbs to the correct tense.

- 1) If there is one thing that we learned in the 1990's about basking in the sun, it is that the sun's rays can cause irreversible damage leading to cancer.
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- 7) Squids are mistakenly believed to be unintelligent because they are portrayed in movies as dumb and aggressive; in reality, however, they are highly intelligent and are aggressive only when threatened.
- 8) The issue of whether homeopathic remedies actually cure illness or simply reduce symptoms is still being investigated.