

LEARNING ABOUT VERB TENSES

SIMPLE PRESENT, PAST, AND FUTURE TENSES



This unit will help you to understand the simple *present*, *past*, and *future* tenses of a verb. You will be able to write sentences using the correct tense, and to identify the correct tense of a verb.

present tense: The verb shows action that happens regularly.
example: Brandon plays football with Lee.

past tense: The verb shows action that happened.
example: I wrote a story about animals.

future tense: The verb shows action that will happen.
example: Lisa will read to us.

Read each of the following sentences and write present, past or future on the line.

1. Betsy saw a black snake. _____
2. Gwen will go to school. _____
3. Mike eats ice cream. _____
4. Cindy will play basketball. _____
5. Ashley feeds her three cats. _____

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PRACTICE 1



Read each of the following sentences. Circle the correct tense of the underlined verb.

1. Sheryl played with her dog.

present past future

2. Harry will go with Bob to the movies.

present past future

3. Leslie sings in the choir.

present past future

4. Anne writes stories for her friends.

present past future

5. Tom sold his baseball cards.

present past future

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PRACTICE 2

Choose the correct verb to match the tense in the (parentheses)

1. Marion _____ at Jacob to stop running. (past tense)
a. yelled b. yells c. will yell

2. Cathy _____ bakes cookies every week. (present tense)
a. baked b. bakes c. will bake

3. Charles _____ the ball to Claudia. (future tense)
a. threw b. throws c. will throw

4. Glenn _____ a picture of a dog (past tense)
a. painted b. paints c. will paint

5. Mark _____ the baby to the car. (future tense)
a. carried b. carries c. will carry

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PRACTICE 3



Write a sentence using an action verb in the correct tense.

1. (past tense) _____

2. (present tense) _____

3. (future tense) _____

4. (past tense) _____

5. (present tense) _____

6. (future tense) _____

7. (past tense) _____

8. (present tense) _____

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PRACTICE 4



Circle the present tense verbs, draw a square around the past tense verbs, and make an x under the future tense verbs.

played

carry

will sing

write

shouted

hopped

shared

rode

laugh

will paint

chopped

will try

throw

see

cried

save

washed

will grow

will bark

ran

shopped

danced

will swing

like

sneeze

looked

will play

ANSWERS TO TENSES:

- PAGE 1:
1. past
 2. future
 3. present
 4. future
 5. present

- PAGE 2:
1. past
 2. future
 3. present
 4. present
 5. past

- PAGE 3:
1. a
 2. b
 3. c
 4. a
 5. c

PAGE 4: ANSWERS WILL VARY

- PAGE 5:
- | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| CIRCLE: | carry | write | laugh | throw |
| | see | save | like | sneeze |
| SQUARE: | played | shouted | hopped | shared |
| | rode | chopped | cried | washed |
| | ran | shopped | danced | looked |
| X: | will sing | will paint | will try | will grow |
| | will bark | will swing | will play | |