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 ________ 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