

GRAMMAR

Verb Tenses

Creating the various English verb forms is as simple as knowing what helping verbs or suffixes to add or modify with each main verb.

	Simple -----	Progressive + <i>to be and -ing</i>	Perfect + <i>to have</i>	Perfect Progressive + <i>to have and to be and -ing</i>
Past Tense + <i>ed</i>	I walked	I was walking	I had walked	I had been walking
Present Tense -----	I walk	I am walking	I have walked	I have been walking
Future Tense + <i>will</i>	I will walk	I will be walking	I will have walked	I will have been walking

Simple Present/ Present Progressive

- Africa **possesses** valuable natural resources. general truth -- everyday, habitual
- Ramadan **ends (is ending)** tomorrow. sometimes indicates future
- Some students **are taking** English 101 this semester. true for a short time
- John **is eating** lunch in the cafeteria. happening right now

Simple Past/ Past Progressive

- Yesterday, an earthquake **shook** Greece. completed past action, definite time
- When the earthquake **occurred**, people **screamed**. two actions in sequence
- When the earthquake **occurred**, people **were sleeping**. one action interrupted by another
- While I **was sleeping**, Tom **was reading**. two simultaneous continuous acts

Present Perfect/ Present Perfect Progressive

Scientists **have located** new oil reserves in the Pacific.

before now, time is not definite

Humans **have raised** grain for thousands of years.

begins in the past, continues now
often used with *since* and *for*

Humans **have been raising** grain since 5,000 B.C.

Since I arrived in the U.S., I **have been living** in D.C.

emphasizes continuing action

Past Perfect/ Past Perfect Progressive

By the time Tom **went** to Rome, he **had sold** his car.

past perfect action precedes
another past action

When Tom **called** me, I **had been studying** for 3 hours.

past perfect continuous action
precedes another past action

Simple Future/ Future Progressive

Microsoft **is going to hire** a new CEO.

action that will occur -- a plan

I **will help** you.

future *and* willingness

At midnight, most people **will be sleeping**.

will occur at a point in the future

While you **are working** tonight, I **will be sleeping**.

two future continuous actions

As soon as I **talk** to Lee, I **will call** you.

two future sequential actions

Future Perfect/ Future Perfect Progressive

By midnight, I **will have finished** the report.

completed before a future point

By the time I **get** home, my husband **will have left**.

IRREGULAR (present + future)

By 4:00 pm, I **will have been working** for 4 hours.

show duration before a future point