



Verb Tenses

Brought to you by the Purdue University Online Writing Lab

Active Tenses

Simple Present	Present Progressive	Simple Past	Past Progressive	Future	Present Perfect	Present Perfect Progressive	Past Perfect	Future Perfect
----------------	---------------------	-------------	------------------	--------	-----------------	-----------------------------	--------------	----------------

Passive Tenses

Simple Present	Present Progressive	Simple Past	Past Progressive	Future
Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Modals	Subject/Object	By

Active Tenses

Simple Present

Present Action or Condition	General Truths	Non-action; Habitual Action	Future Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I hear you. Here comes the bus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are thirty days in September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like music. I run on Tuesdays and Sundays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The train leaves at 4:00 p.m.

Present Progressive

Activity in Progress	Verbs of Perception
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am playing soccer now 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He is feeling sad

Simple Past

Completed Action	Completed Condition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We visited the museum yesterday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The weather was rainy last week.

Past Progressive

Past Action that took place over a period of time	Past Action interrupted by another
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They were climbing for twenty-seven days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We were eating dinner when she told me.

Future

With will/won't -- Activity or event that will or won't exist or happen in the future	With going to -- future in relation to circumstances in the present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'll get up late tomorrow. I won't get up early. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm hungry. I'm going to get something to eat.

Present Perfect

With verbs of state that begin in the past and lead up to and include the present	To express habitual or continued action	With events occurring at an indefinite or unspecified time in the past -- with ever, never, before
● He has lived here for many years.	● He has worn glasses all his life.	● Have you ever been to Tokyo before?

Present Perfect Progressive

To express duration of an action that began in the past, has continued into the present, and may continue into the future
● David has been working for two hours, and he hasn't finished yet.

Past Perfect

to describe a past event or condition completed before another event in the past	In reported speech
● When I arrived home, he had already called.	● Jane said that she had gone to the movies.

Future perfect

to express action that will be completed by or before a specified time in the future
● By next month we will have finished this job.
● He won't have finished his work until 2:00.

The Passive Tenses

Simple present

active:	passive:
● The company ships the computers to many foreign countries.	● Computers are shipped to many foreign countries.

Present Progressive

active:	passive:
● The chef is preparing the food.	● The food is being prepared.

Simple Past

active:	passive:
● The delivery man delivered the package yesterday.	● The package was delivered yesterday.

Past Progressive

active:	passive:
● The producer was making an announcement.	● An announcement was being made.

Future

active:	passive:
● Our representative will pick up the computer.	● The computer will be picked up.

Present Perfect

active:	passive:
● Someone has made the arrangements for us.	● The arrangements have been made for us.

Past Perfect

active:	passive:
● They had given us visas for three months.	● We had been given visas for three months.

Modals

active:	passive:
● You can use the computer.	● The computer can be used.

Subject/Object

active:	passive:
● They sent the man a package.	● The man was sent a package.

By

active:	passive:
● Their friends often take them to interesting places.	● They are often taken to interesting places by their friends.

Designed by Julia Romberger, August 2000.

The following information must remain intact on every handout printed for distribution.

This page is located at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/esl/esltensverb.html>

Copyright ©1995-2001 by OWL at Purdue University and Purdue University. All rights reserved.
Use of this site, including printing and distributing our handouts, constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions of fair use, available at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/lab/fairuse.html>.

To contact OWL, please visit our contact information page at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/lab/contact.html> to find the right person to call or email.