

# Simple and Perfect Verb Tenses



There are three simple verb tenses.

- Present tense places a condition or action in the present.

**Example:** She walks to school every day.

- Past tense places a condition or action in the past.

**Example:** She walked to school every day last week.

- Future tense places a condition or action in the future.

**Example:** She will walk to school tomorrow.

There are also three perfect verb tenses.

- Present perfect tense tells about a condition or action that started in the past and is continuing or has just been completed.

**Example:** She has walked to school each day lately.

- Past perfect tense tells about a condition or action that was completed before another past action began.

**Example:** She had walked to school twice before she twisted her ankle.

- Future perfect tense tells about a condition or action that will be completed before a specific time in the future.

**Example:** She will have walked ten miles by the end of the week.

Write the correct simple or perfect form of the verb *live* in each blank below.

1. Last year our family \_\_\_\_\_ on Maple Avenue.
2. By the year 2050, a person born in 1990 \_\_\_\_\_ sixty years.
3. Right now, Paco \_\_\_\_\_ with his grandmother.
4. Henry \_\_\_\_\_ in California for a year before the earthquake struck.
5. She \_\_\_\_\_ in five states by the time she was ten years old.

Write a sentence that correctly uses each verb form below.

6. smile (future) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. work (present perfect) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. try (future perfect) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It is important for an author to use consistent verb tense. On another piece of paper, rewrite the story starter below so that its verb tense is consistent.

Suddenly Eric trips and fell down. As he struggles to get up, he spotted a shimmer of gold in the sand. As he pulls it out of the sand and started to rub the dirt off, he hears an explosion and his eyes open wide as he had watched a huge genie float up into the air. "Master," the genie had bellowed, "your wish is my command!" Eric stares for a minute, not knowing what to say. Finally he gathered his wits and stammered...