

Verb Tense

Read the following passages:

Dad goes out to try and get the Brown Bomber to start. That is what we call our car. It is a 1948 Plymouth that is dull brown and real big. Byron says it is turd brown.

Dad went out and tried to get the Brown Bomber started. That was what we called our car. It was a 1948 Plymouth that was dull brown and real big. Byron said it was turd brown.

Verbs tell time. In a sentence, the reader knows when the action is taking place by the tense of the verbs.

Present tense – tells that something is happening right now; in the present.

Today, I ...sing, dance, laugh, jump, think, write, eat, do,

Progressive tense – expresses action that is continuing (will have a “be” verb and –ing verb)

am singing, is dancing, was laughing, were jumping, are thinking, am writing, is eating

Past tense - tells of an action that occurred in the past and is over

Yesterday, I... sang, danced, laughed, jumped, thought, ate, did

Perfect tense – expresses action that has already been completed (will have an “h” helping verb)

have sung, has danced, had laughed, have jumped, had thought, has written, have eaten

Future tense – tells of an action that will happen in the future (helping verb *will* or *shall*)

Tomorrow, I will/shall... sing, dance, laugh, jump, write, eat, do

Underline the verb/verb phrase in the following sentences and identify the tense.

Example: The actors will show their talents. _____ future _____

1. Our show opens next week. _____
2. The cast has prepared for a month. _____
3. We have chosen a comedy to perform. _____
4. The girls are practicing their lines. _____
5. Liz rehearsed for an hour last night. _____
6. Everyone is looking forward to the performance. _____

7. We will begin the rehearsals next week. _____
8. Every day the teacher coaches the actors. _____
9. The sound crew places the microphones on stage. _____
10. After rehearsal, the boys walked home. _____

In the following paragraph, write the correct verb form on the line following each verb in parentheses.

EXAMPLE Yesterday afternoon, Maria [1] (*walk*) walked home from school.

One afternoon last summer, my brother Joe and I had [1] (*jog*) _____ around the park. When we [2] (*come*) _____ home, we were very thirsty. We [3] (*see*) _____ a bottle of apple juice in the cabinet. We [4] (*take*) _____ the bottle and [5] (*set*) _____ it in the freezer. Then, we [6] (*rest*) _____ on the air-conditioned porch. An hour later, we [7] (*go*) _____ to the freezer to get our juice. The bottle had [8] (*freeze*) _____ and had burst into a million pieces. We should have [9] (*know*) _____ better. Instead of cold apple juice, we [10] (*drink*) _____ warm tap water while we cleaned up the mess.

Writing:

11. Write a sentence with a present tense verb. Circle the verb.

12. Write a sentence with a progressive tense verb. Circle the verb phrase.

13. Write a sentence with a past tense verb. Circle the verb.

14. Write a sentence with a perfect tense verb. Circle the verb phrase.

15. Write a sentence with a future tense verb. Circle the verb phrase.
