



## Verb Tenses

**Verbs** are words that describe actions, occurrences, or states of being.

**Verb tenses** allow verbs to express distinct periods of time, the duration of an action, or the state it denotes.

**Infinitives** are the base version of a verb. (Examples: to call, to love, to go)

**Participles** are verbs that can be used as other parts of speech (adjectives, nouns, etc.).

**The present participle** ends with -ing. (Example: The talkinging man)

**The past participle** often ends with -ed. (Example: The discusseded topic)

However, the past participle has other **irregular** endings as well. (Examples: broken, gone)

**There are six commonly used verb tenses in English:**

1. **Simple present:** They walk.
2. **Simple past:** They walked.
3. **Future:** They will walk.
4. **Present perfect\*:** They have walked.
5. **Past perfect\*:** They had walked.
6. **Future perfect\*:** They will have walked.

\*It is important to remember that the perfect tenses are formed by adding an auxiliary or auxiliaries.

**The following are the most common auxiliaries:** be, being, been, can, do, may, must, might, could, should, ought, shall, will, would, has, have, had

**Examples:**

- Annie hiked four mountains. (Past—the hiking is completed)
- Annie will hike four mountains. (Future—the hiking has not happened yet)
- Annie has hiked four mountains. (Present perfect—the hiking has happened recently)
- Annie had hiked four mountains by the end of last month. (Past perfect—the hiking occurred in the recent past)
- Annie will have hiked four mountains by the end of this month. (Future perfect—the hiking will occur soon or in the near future, i.e., by the end of this month)

## Need more information or assistance?

Schedule an appointment with the [Excel Multiliteracy Center](http://multiliteracy.uccs.edu). We are here to provide one-on-one and group assistance to any and all UCCS students!