



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)

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