

Grammar Flyer

VERBS: PRESENT, PAST, FUTURE, AND PERFECT TENSES

DEFINITIONS

There are three simple **verb tenses: present tense, past tense, and future tense.**

The **perfect tenses: present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect** describe actions that were completed or will be completed before other actions in the sentence.

EXAMPLES

Angela laughs. (present)
Angela laughed. (past)
Angela will laugh. (future)

Angela will laugh. (future) *Angela has laughed for an hour.* (present perfect)
Angela had laughed after she found her dog. (past perfect)
By tomorrow, Angela will have stopped laughing. (future perfect)

Use the **present tense** if you want to describe an action that is taking place as you write about it or if you want to describe an action that take place regularly

Angela laughs politely along with her classmates.

Angela laughs politely along with her classmates every time her professor cracks a corny joke.

Use the **past tense** if you want to describe an action that has already taken place:

Angela laughed politely along with her classmates.

Angela laughed politely along with her classmates every time her professor cracked a corny joke.

Use the **future tense** to describe an action that has not yet taken place:

Angela will laugh politely along with her classmates.

Jack is sure that Angela will laugh politely along with her classmates whenever her professor cracks a corny joke.

Use the **present perfect tense** to indicate an action that began in the past and continues in the present *or* an action that began in the past and ended in the present:

Jack has finished eating.

Angela has been eating for an hour.

Use the **past perfect tense** to describe an action that took place before a certain time in the past:

Angela had decided to stop eating after Jack became impatient.

Use the **future perfect** to describe an action that will be completed in the future:

By five o'clock, Angela will have eaten enough.

✚ Always use a form to the verb 'to have' with the perfect tenses!



Write a sentence that uses the **present tense**:

[pen nib] _____

Write a sentence in the **past tense**:

[pen nib] _____

Write a sentence in the **future tense**:

[pen nib] _____

Write the same sentence in the **present perfect tense**:

[pen nib] _____

Write a sentence in the **past perfect tense**:

[pen nib] _____

Write a sentence in the **future perfect tense**:

[pen nib] _____

Grammar Flyer Links:

Verbs: Mood

Verbs: Linking, Transitive, Intransitive

Verbs: Progressive Tenses

Verbs: Participles, Voice, Modals

Verbs: Infinitive, Regular, Irregular