

511.1 Tense of a Verb

Tense indicates time. Each verb has three principal parts: the *present*, *past*, and *past participle*. All six tenses are formed from these principal parts. The past and past participle of regular verbs are formed by adding *ed* to the present form. The past and past participle of irregular verbs are usually different words; however, a few have the same form in all three principal parts. (See page 509.)

- **Present tense** expresses action that is happening at the present time, or action that happens continually, regularly.

In September, sophomores **smirk** and **joke** about the “little freshies.”

- **Past tense** expresses action that is completed at a particular time in the past.

They **forgot** that just ninety days **separated** them from freshman status.

- **Future tense** expresses action that will take place in the future.

They **will remember** this in three years when they **will be** freshmen again.

- **Present perfect tense** expresses action that began in the past but continues in the present or is completed in the present.

Our boat **has weathered** worse storms than this one.

- **Past perfect tense** expresses an action in the past that occurs before another past action.

They reported, wrongly, that the hurricane **had missed** the island.

- **Future perfect tense** expresses action that will begin in the future and be completed by a specific time in the future.

By this time tomorrow, the hurricane **will have smashed** into the coast.

TENSE	Active Voice		Passive Voice	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
PRESENT	I see you see he/she/it sees	we see you see they see	I am seen you are seen he/she/it is seen	we are seen you are seen they are seen
PAST	I saw you saw he saw	we saw you saw they saw	I was seen you were seen it was seen	we were seen you were seen they were seen
FUTURE	I will see you will see he will see	we will see you will see they will see	I will be seen you will be seen it will be seen	we will be seen you will be seen they will be seen
PRESENT PERFECT	I have seen you have seen he has seen	we have seen you have seen they have seen	I have been seen you have been seen it has been seen	we have been seen you have been seen they have been seen
PAST PERFECT	I had seen you had seen he had seen	we had seen you had seen they had seen	I had been seen you had been seen it had been seen	we had been seen you had been seen they had been seen
FUTURE PERFECT	I will have seen you will have seen he will have seen	we will have seen you will have seen they will have seen	I will have been seen you will have been seen it will have been seen	we will have been seen you will have been seen they will have been seen