

THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER

PARTS OF SPEECH

VERBS

Verbs: actions or existing states

There are **3 types of verbs**: action, linking, and helping.

Action verbs express things we do (physical and mental activity).

stop run study dig wash play

Examples: I ate a whole pizza. You earned an A in Algebra. I ran the 5-mile race.

Linking verbs join the subject with words that further identify or describe the subject. (They sometimes are described as performing the function of an equal sign.)

am is are has was were be being become been seems

grow feel look prove smell sound taste

Examples: Boating is fun. His mother seems nice. You look well
= = =

Helping verbs help the main verb (action or linking verb).

Verbs that are only helping verbs: shall will should would must
ought (to) might can could may

Examples: I will go home soon. Joe must wear a uniform.
You may reheat the pizza if you are hungry.

Verbs that are used as either helping verbs or linking verbs:

has have had do does did
be being become been is are was were am

Examples – Helping verb: Sean has done well for five years. I did remember to call her.
Linking verb: She is late to class. My brother was a soldier.

There are three basic tenses: present, past, and future.

Each tense has a perfect form, indicating completed action; each has a progressive form, indicating ongoing action; and each has a perfect progressive form, indicating ongoing action that will be completed at some definite time.

	<u>Simple Forms</u>	<u>Progressive Forms</u>	<u>Perfect Forms</u>	<u>Perfect Progressive Forms</u>
<u>Present</u>	take/s	am/is/are taking	have/has taken	have/has been taking
<u>Past</u>	took	was/were taking	had taken	had been taking
<u>Future</u>	will/shall take	will be taking	will have taken	will have been taking

Simple forms

Present tense describes unchanging, repeated, or customary action or situation in the present. It can also represent a widespread truth.

Examples:

The castle is cold and made of stone.
Every year, the board elects new members.
Au is the chemical symbol for gold.

Meaning

unchanging action
recurring action
widespread truth

Past tense describes an action or situation that was started and finished in the past. Most past tense verbs end in *-ed*. **Irregular verbs have special past and past participle forms.*

Examples:

His career as a professor ended in 2000.
I took the exam last August.

Meaning

regular *-ed* past
irregular form of the verb

Future tense describes an action or situation that will occur in the future. This tense is formed by using *will/shall* with the simple form of the verb.

The future tense can also be expressed by using *am, is, or are* with *going to*. We can also use the present tense form *with an adverb or adverbial phrase* to show future time.

Examples: I will start college in January. She is going to perform her first recital in May.
The President speaks tomorrow. (Tomorrow is a future time adverb.)

Progressive Forms

Present progressive tense describes an ongoing action that is happening at the same time the statement is written. The tense is formed by using *am/is/are* with the verb form ending in *-ing*.

Example: A new trend in education is changing the way instructors teach.

Past progressive tense describes a past action which was happening when another action occurred. This tense is formed by using *was/were* with the verb form ending in *-ing*

Example: He was reading when I called.

Future progressive tense describes an ongoing or continuous action that will take place in the future. The tense is formed by using *will be* or *shall be* with the verb form ending in *-ing*.

Example: I shall be considering the options available to me.

Perfect Forms

Present perfect tense describes an action that happened at an indefinite time in the past or that began in the past and continues in the present. This tense is formed by using *has/have* with the *past participle* of the verb. Most past participles end in *-ed*. **Irregular verbs have special past participles.*

Examples:

Sue has traveled to many states to collect antiques.
Men have fought in wars for centuries.

Meaning

at an indefinite time
continues into the present

Past perfect tense describes an action that took place in the past before another past action. This tense is formed by using *had* with the *past participle* of the verb.

Example: By the time Adam arrived, the party had ended.

Future perfect tense describes an action that will occur in the future before some other action. This tense is formed by using *will have* with the *past participle* of the verb.

Example: By the time Adam arrives, the party will have gone on for days.

Perfect Progressive Forms

Present perfect progressive tense describes an action that began in the past, continues in the present and may continue into the future. This tense is formed by using *has/have been* and the *present participle* of the verb form ending in *-ing*.

Example: Lisa has been considering a transfer to Orlando where she will attend college.

Past perfect progressive tense describes a past, ongoing action that was completed before some other past action. This tense is formed by using *had been* and the *present perfect* of the verb form ending in *ing*.

Example: Before the budget cuts, the school had been awarding many more grants.

Future perfect progressive tense describes a future, ongoing action that will occur before some specified future time. This tense is formed by using *will have been* and the *present participle* of the verb form ending in *-ing*.

Example: By 2010, I will have been living in Daytona Beach for 20 years.

Subject Verb Agreement

Singular or plural verbs must agree with the number of the noun to which they relate. In the present tense, one must add an *s* or *es* to the present form of the verb when the subjects or the entity performing the action is a singular third person: he, she, it, or words for which these pronouns could substitute.

Singular	Plural
The <u>student</u> <u>sings</u> . (He or she sings)	Your <u>children</u> <u>sing</u> . (They sing)
The <u>bird</u> <u>does</u> migrate. (It does)	Those <u>birds</u> <u>do</u> migrate. (They do)

Some tenses of the verb do not use the added *s*.

Example: I had lunch with my mother on Saturday.

More information on subject and verb agreement can be found at <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/grammar/subverag.html>

For additional information on verbs see <http://www.usingenglish.com/glossary.html>

Material adapted from LEO: Literacy Education Online Subject and Verb Agreement and Summary of Verb Tenses.