

Verb Tense

Name: _____

Verbs show an action or a state of being.

The verb tense places the verb in time. The three major tenses verbs can show are **past, present, and future**. Sometimes it helps kids to think of the past as “yesterday,” the present as “today,” and the future as “tomorrow.”

Each verb tense has several options that allow you to be precise about what you mean. Let's look at the verb, “to ride.”



Past	Present	Future
I rode my bicycle. I was riding my bicycle. I had been riding my bicycle.	I ride my bicycle. I am riding my bicycle. I have been riding my bicycle.	I will ride my bicycle. I will be riding my bicycle. I am going to ride my bicycle.

Your ear can probably tell which verb tense “sounds right” in a sentence. Choose the correct tense of the verb to best complete each sentence below.

1. Jim and Susan _____ to school tomorrow.
(went/will go)
2. Sam sits down and _____ in his notebook.
(writes/wrote)
3. The energetic puppy sure _____ happy yesterday!
(is/was)
4. Mrs. Smith _____ a song in the talent show next month.
(sang/will sing)
5. They _____ on the phone for three hours last night.
(talk/talked)
6. My baby sister _____ for the first time yesterday!
(speaks/spoke)
7. Uncle Scott _____ me a new video game tomorrow.
(gave/will give)
8. The teacher _____ to her students right now.
(read/is reading)

Next to each verb, write “past tense,” “present tense,” or “future tense” .

9. plays _____
10. were _____
11. painted _____
12. is smiling _____
13. write _____
14. drew _____
15. will drive _____
16. are _____

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I rode my bicycle. I was riding my bicycle. I had been riding my bicycle.	I ride my bicycle. I am riding my bicycle. I have been riding my bicycle.	I will ride my bicycle. I will be riding my bicycle. I am going to ride my bicycle.

Your ear can probably tell which verb tense “sounds right” in a sentence. Choose the correct tense of the verb to best complete each sentence below.

1. Jim and Susan will go to school tomorrow.
(went/will go)
2. Sam sits down and writes in his notebook.
(writes/wrote)
3. The energetic puppy sure was happy yesterday!
(is/was)
4. Mrs. Smith will sing a song in the talent show next month.
(sang/will sing)
5. They talked on the phone for three hours last night.
(talk/talked)
6. My baby sister spoke for the first time yesterday!
(speaks/spoke)
7. Uncle Scott will give me a new video game tomorrow.
(gave/will give)
8. The teacher is reading to her students right now.
(read/is reading)

Next to each verb, write “past tense,” “present tense,” or “future tense” .

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|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 9. plays | <u>present tense</u> | 10. were | <u>past tense</u> |
| 11. painted | <u>past tense</u> | 12. is smiling | <u>present tense</u> |
| 13. write | <u>present tense</u> | 14. drew | <u>past tense</u> |
| 15. will drive | <u>future tense</u> | 16. are | <u>present tense</u> |