

TENSE CHART

Verb Tense

- People use verb tenses to express time in their use of language.
- Verb tenses give information about when an action took place.
- Choose the right tense to indicate your meaning in your sentences.

- Change verb tenses only when there is a real change in time.
- When you are writing about an idea, stay with the same tense.
- Past, present and future represent the three most common types of tenses.

Past Tense

- Expresses an action or situation that was started and finished in the past
- To show earlier action, use past
- Most past tense verbs end in "ed."
- The irregular verbs have **special past tense forms** which must be memorized.
 1. Past tense for "write" is "wrote," or "has written."
 2. Past tense for "drink" is "drank."
 3. Past tense for "drive" is "drove."

Examples

painted	was painted	had painted
sung	has sung	had sung
went		
made		

Present Tense

- Expresses an unchanging, repeated, or reoccurring action or situation that exists only in the here and now.
- To show same-time action, use the present.

paints	is painting
sing	is singing
goes	
makes	

Future Tense

- Expresses an action, a promise, a plan or a situation that will occur or be completed at a specified time in the future.
- To show action to come, use the future tense.
- This tense is formed by using **will/shall/might** with the **simple form** of the verb.

will paint	shall paint	might paint
will sing	shall sing	might sing
will go	shall go	might go
will make	shall make	might make