

# Verbs

**Verbs** show action (sing, run, hit, talk) or state of being (is, was, feel, seem). Some type of verb will be found in every complete sentence.

I. Circle the verbs in the following sentences; above each, write **(A)** if it is an action word or **(B)** if it is a word showing a state of being. Verbs may be more than one word, such as *was driving, has elected, will nominate*, and so on.

1. The dog barked at the boy on the fence.
2. The cowboy roped the steer.
3. Johnny played his guitar for us.
4. Elizabeth looked tired and seemed unhappy.
5. Our kitten lay in the warm sunlight and slept for hours.
6. We discovered the missing child.
7. We visited the fire station and the alarm sounded.
8. After several days the search for the missing child was canceled.
9. No one had heard the announcement about the change in attendance procedure.
10. He felt lonely and lost without his puppy.

II. Supply the following subjects with words showing action or state of being to form complete sentences.

1. Everyone at the picnic \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mildred \_\_\_\_\_
3. He and I \_\_\_\_\_
4. Suddenly the glass \_\_\_\_\_
5. St. Louis and Chicago \_\_\_\_\_
6. Controls for pollution of air and water \_\_\_\_\_
7. The new doll with real hair \_\_\_\_\_
8. Tayshon and Rasheed \_\_\_\_\_
9. As the clock struck midnight, \_\_\_\_\_
10. The doctor's office \_\_\_\_\_

Harry's hints:

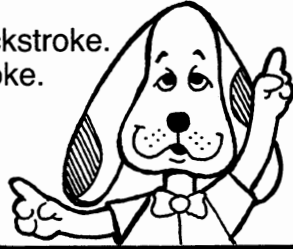
**Verbs** in the **present tense** show action that is happening **now**.

With **plural** subjects, or **you**, or **I**, do not add **s** or **es** to the verb.

The boys **swim** the backstroke.

I **swim** the butterfly stroke.

You **time** the first race.



With **singular** subjects:

add **s** to most verbs.

Joan **swims** the crawl.

add **es** to verbs that end with sh, ch, x, s or z.

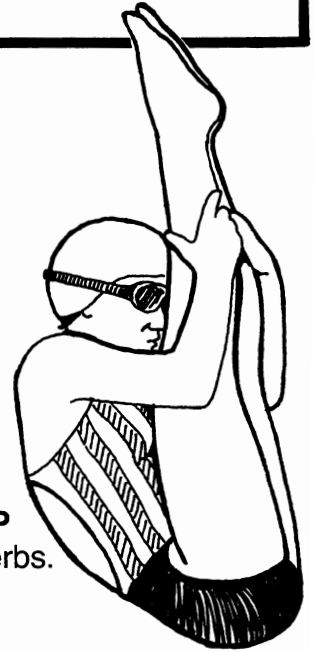
She **watches** the race.

change **y** to **i** and add **es** if a verb ends with a consonant and y.

Jo **studies** their form.

Write the correct present tense form for the verbs in parentheses.

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| (cheer)    | 1. The spectators _____ for their school team.                         |
| (dive)     | 2. The girl _____ for Kennedy High School.                             |
| (swim)     | 3. You _____ in the youth division of the meet.                        |
| (know)     | 4. Betty and John _____ they are fastest in their race.                |
| (watch)    | 5. My mother _____ me during each race.                                |
| (study)    | 6. Our coach _____ each team member closely.                           |
| (practice) | 7. I _____ every morning at 5:30 before school.                        |
| (hurry)    | 8. Marian _____ from the shower room to the pool.                      |
| (buzz)     | 9. The warning alarm to start the race _____.                          |
| (talk)     | 10. The coach _____ to the whole team to build morale before the meet. |



Write an **S** in the blank if the subject of the sentence is **singular**. Write a **P** if it is **plural**. In the parentheses, circle the correct form of the present tense verbs.

- \_\_\_ 1. The meet (begin, begins) soon.
- \_\_\_ 2. I (wish, wishes) that I had practiced a little harder.
- \_\_\_ 3. The crowd (cheer, cheers) loudly at the end of each race.
- \_\_\_ 4. My mom (volunteers, volunteer) to be a timer.
- \_\_\_ 5. Judges (try, tries) to be fair while watching divers.
- \_\_\_ 6. Platform diving (look, looks) difficult.
- \_\_\_ 7. Anna (prepares, prepare) herself mentally by thinking through her dive first.
- \_\_\_ 8. My little sister (fuss, fusses) by the end of the long meet.
- \_\_\_ 9. The team (cheer, cheers) for all our teammates.
- \_\_\_ 10. The fruit juice and cookies (taste, tastes) delicious after the meet.

Rewrite each sentence below. Change the singular subjects to plural subjects and change the plural subjects to singular subjects. Change the verbs to agree with the subjects.

1. The young girl swims for Sugar Tree Swim Club. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The diving coaches discipline the squad with early morning practices. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The flag flies briskly over the finish line. \_\_\_\_\_



Write two sentences about something that is happening now. Use verbs in the present tense. Label your subjects as singular or plural.

Harry's hint:

**Verbs** in the **past tense** show action that happened **before** now. They are used with both **singular** and **plural** subjects.

Rules for Making the Past Tense of Regular Verbs

1. Add **ed** to form the **past tense** of most **regular verbs**.

Example: Susan **helped** put on a roof for the older couple.

2. When a verb ends in **e**, drop the **e** and add **ed**.

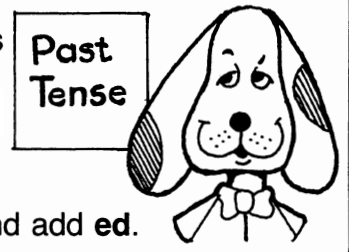
Example: We **stared** at our handy work.

3. When the verb ends with a consonant and **y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **ed**.

Example: Sam **worried** he wouldn't know how to use a sabre saw.

4. When a verb has one vowel and ends with a single consonant, double the final consonant and add **ed**. There are some exceptions.

Examples: Harold **grabbed** a hammer. He **fixed** the door.



Write the past tense of each verb. Write the number of the rule used to determine the spelling.

- |            |       |       |           |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 1. like    | _____ | _____ | 6. hurry  | _____ | _____ |
| 2. scrub   | _____ | _____ | 7. handle | _____ | _____ |
| 3. destroy | _____ | _____ | 8. swap   | _____ | _____ |
| 4. study   | _____ | _____ | 9. talk   | _____ | _____ |
| 5. zip     | _____ | _____ | 10. marry | _____ | _____ |

Write the past tense of each regular verb below the correct heading.

- |       |       |         |       |        |       |       |
|-------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| bury  | chase | explode | bloom | rest   | laugh | hope  |
| carry | line  | dash    | pass  | hurry  | reply | tie   |
| tidy  | worry | bake    | cry   | admire | spell | marry |
| stare | apply | grab    | slip  | tap    | bat   | scrub |

Add **ed**

Drop **e**; add **ed**

Change **y** to **i**; add **ed**

One vowel and single consonant; double consonant, add **ed**

|       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Write three sentences using three of the following verbs rewritten in the past tense: believe, study, stop, open, hurry, zip, bungle, cry.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

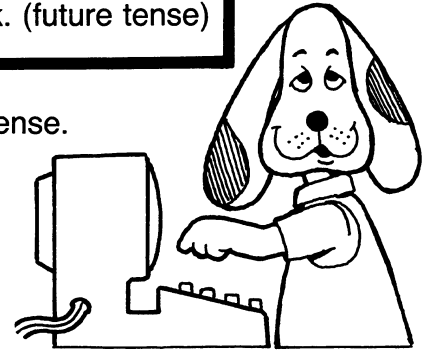
Harry's hint:

The **future tense** of a verb shows action that **will happen** in the future. It is formed by using the helping verb **will** with a **main verb**.

Examples: She **helps** the children now. (present tense)

She **will help** the children with their homework next week. (future tense)

Future!



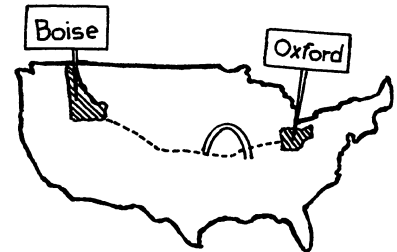
In the following sentences, underline the verbs used in the future tense.

1. The 21st century will bring many changes to our lives.
2. People will use computers for many more projects than presently.
3. Travelers will have vacations planned by computer.
4. We will shop by phone or computer.
5. Some people will work at home with a computer.

In the following sentences, underline the verb. Then write the future tense of that verb on the line.

1. We study many things through the computer. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Our computer class programs music through our computer. \_\_\_\_\_
3. We type our essays on the word processor. \_\_\_\_\_
4. We have an electronic mailroom on the computer. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The class corresponds to different classmates through the computer. \_\_\_\_\_
6. We also learn the correct typing positions for our fingers. \_\_\_\_\_
7. One class operates a video program on a weekly basis. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The video news appears in the hallway to keep us up-to-date on school activities. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The fifth-grade publishes a monthly newspaper on the computer. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The editorial staff edits the first drafts written by reporters. \_\_\_\_\_

Time is measured by minutes, hours, days, and years. In grammar, the present, present participle, past, past participle, and future tenses are used to express time. In the following sentences, identify the verb tenses.



1. My family is planning to move to Idaho. \_\_\_\_\_
2. We have lived in Oxford, Ohio, for ten years. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Our neighbors in Ohio are wonderful to us. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I will hate to leave. \_\_\_\_\_
5. My dad's new business is locating outside Boise. \_\_\_\_\_
6. We sold our house in two weeks. \_\_\_\_\_
7. We held a garage sale in the driveway last Saturday. \_\_\_\_\_
8. My mother packed all last week. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The movers are taking all the boxes from the living room. \_\_\_\_\_
10. We cleaned carefully after the moving van left for Idaho. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Our neighbors gave us a bag of snacks to eat in the car. \_\_\_\_\_
12. The automobile trip across the Midwest was planned carefully. \_\_\_\_\_



Look at a map or globe. Write the names of several states that you would pass through while driving from Ohio to Idaho. Write a short paragraph about your trip using the future tense of different verbs.

Harry's hint:  
 A helpful way to study the way **regular verbs** change from one tense to another is to see them written in chart form. Fill out the chart, using the rules for forming tenses of regular verbs.

| Present, plural, you or I | Present, singular | Present Participle, use with form of be | Past | Past Participle, use with form of have | Future, use with will |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---|------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. talk                   |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 2. paint                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 3. print                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 4. crawl                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 5. clean                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 6. open                   |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 7. cook                   |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 8. pitch                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 9. play                   |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 10. work                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 11. stop                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 12. turn                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 13. bat                   |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 14. fix                   |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 15. look                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 16. watch                 |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 17. wash                  |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 18. smell                 |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 19. smile                 |                   |   |      |  |                       |
| 20. enjoy                 |                   |   |      |  |                       |

Underline the verbs in the following sentences. In the space to the left, identify the tense as: Present, Present Participle, Past, Past Participle, or Future. (Some sentences have two verbs.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The old man and his young friend were fixing a back door when they hear a large noise.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. They glanced at each other immediately.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mr. O'Brien turned toward the lake for a better view.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jonathon had turned already to see who or what was making the noise.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. They saw something moving under the tarpaulin that was covering the canoe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Wondering what they will find, they walk slowly to the dock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The tarp moved as several pieces of trash were pitched overboard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Curiosity was getting the better of both of them.



Write two more sentences to finish the story above. Label the verbs you have chosen as Present, Present Participle, Past, Past Participle, or Future.