Verb Tenses

Simple Tense

Present Tense
Indicates an action that is occurring in the present time.
- Ex: The dog runs down the sidewalk.
- Ex: Thomas is at school right now.

Past Tense
Indicates an action that has already occurred.
- Ex: The dog ran down the sidewalk.
- Ex: Thomas went to school today.

Future Tense
Indicates an action that has not yet occurred.
- Ex: The dog will run down the sidewalk
- Ex: Thomas will go to school today.

Participle Review

Present Participle
Present Participle uses the –ing form with helping verbs such as: am, was, should have been, will be, were, might have been, must have been, etc…
- Ex: She will be going to the party.
- Ex: We were smelling the roses in the garden.

Past Participle
Past Participle for regular verbs uses the –ed or –d form with the helping verbs “have,” “has,” or “had.”
- Ex: I have watched the tape already.
- Ex: She has smuggled food into the movies on numerous occasions.

Irregular Verbs
Some verbs are considered irregular because they do not add –ed or –d to the simple form. Some of these verbs change their internal vowels to indicate past tense, while others change their endings or change both. If you are uncertain about the past participle of a verb, look it up in a dictionary – there are over two hundred irregular verbs. Here are a few examples:
Perfect Tense

**Present Perfect Tense**
This tense indicates an action that started in the past and is continuing into the present. It uses the helping verbs “have” or “has” plus the past participle.
- Ex: Molly has taught the dance class twice a week for 3 years.

**Past Perfect Tense**
This tense indicates an action that was completed before another past action (i.e., two actions happened in the past but at different times). It uses the helping verb “had” plus the past participle.
- Ex: The thief had left the store before the police arrived.

**Future Perfect Tense**
This tense indicates an action that will occur in the future before another action, or the action will be complete before a specific or predictable time. Form this tense by adding “will have” to the past participle.
- Ex: The movie will have sold out by the time we arrive.

Progressive Tense

**Present Progressive Tense**
This tense indicates an action that is taking place at the moment of speaking. It uses the present participle along with the present forms of “be” and other helping verbs.
- Ex: It is raining, so we will stay inside.

**Past Progressive Tense**
This tense indicates an action that is taking place over time or at a specific time in the past. It uses the present participle along with the past tense forms of “be” and other helping verbs.
- Ex: He was mowing the yard when the realtor arrived.
- Ex: We were shopping all day yesterday.

**Future Progressive Tense**
This tense indicates that a future action will continue for a period of time. It uses the present participle along with “will” or “shall” and helping verbs.
- Ex: We will be going to the movies tonight.
- Ex: After spring break, the students will be returning with fresh attitudes!
Perfect Progressive Tense

Present Perfect Progressive
This tense indicates an action that began in the past and will likely continue in the future. It can also indicate the length of time an action has been in progress up to the present. Use the present participle along with “has been” or “have been.”

- Ex: The big toe on my right foot has been hurting for 2 days.
- Ex: Mr. Smith’s English 101 students have been waiting for two weeks to find out their midterm test grades.

Past Perfect Progressive
This tense indicates an action that was ongoing in the past, but has been stopped by another action or by something stated in the sentence. Use the present participle along with “had been.”

- Ex: I had been hoping to earn straight A’s this semester, but I was not prepared for my finals last week.
- Ex: The stray dog had been running around the neighborhood until the humane society picked it up.

Future Perfect Progressive
This tense indicates an action or condition that will continue until a specified time in the future. Use the past participle along with “will have.”

- Ex: In December, we will have been married for 5 years.
- Ex: In September, he will have been president of the book club for 2 years.

Note: the difference between future perfect and future perfect progressive:

- Future perfect: the action will be complete before a specific time in the future.
- Future perfect progressive: the action will continue until a specific time in the future.