

## VERBS: THEIR FORMS & TENSES

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Verbs can change their form to match the subject; thus, we use the term *SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT*.

Example: A doctor cures the sick.  
Doctors cure the sick.

**Verbs also change form with tense changes.**

Example: Pam looks great. (Present tense)  
Pam looked great. (Past tense)

**Regular verbs form the past tense and past participle by adding -ed or -d.**

Example:

<u>Simple Form</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
look	looked	looked
turn	turned	turned
smile	smiled	smiled

**Spelling often changes when irregular verbs form the past tense and past participle.**

Example:

<u>Simple Form</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
bite	bit	bitten
choose	chose	chosen
swim	swam	swum

A list of common irregular verbs can be found in an English handbook. Memorizing those you do not know will be more convenient than looking them up in the dictionary when you do not know a particular form.

It is important to use the correct form of verbs in your writing. Do the following exercise for practice.

**Directions:** Correct the verb errors.

Example: **NO:** Yesterday Claire drawn a wonderful picture of a worm.  
**YES:** Yesterday Claire drew a wonderful picture of a worm.

1. Paula done the assignment.
2. She should have wrote it earlier because she was used to having someone else read it before giving it to the instructor.

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3. When she get to class, she claimed that her little brother had threw her paper away.
4. Actually she had throwed it into the trash can.
5. Then in class she begun to cry.
6. Unfortunately, the instructor seen her in action.
7. Therefore, the instructor had not believe her story.
8. In fact, he ask her to leave class and not return until she had wrote the essay.
9. She leave immediately and gone to the Learning Assistance Center to write.
10. She was able to complete the paper as she was suppose to have did.

### TENSES

**The tense of a verb indicates time.  
Following are the six BASIC tenses:**

#### I. Present Tense Verbs

1. indicate an action going on now  
(That man *looks* great.)
2. indicate an action that goes on habitually  
(Summer *follows* spring.)
3. indicate future action  
(His train *leaves* at 2:00 A.M.)
4. indicate general truths  
(The sun *rises* in the East.)

#### II. Past Tense Verbs

indicate completed past action  
(James *spoke* at last week's conference.)

#### III. Future Tense Verbs

indicate an action that **will** happen in the future.  
(Bob *will meet* with the CLAST students tonight.)

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### IV. Present Perfect Verbs

1. indicate an action completed at the present time  
(Sharon *has finished* her paper.)
2. indicate an action continuing into the present.  
(Curt *has played* tennis for years.)

### V. Past Perfect Verbs

indicate an Action completed BEFORE a specific time in the past.  
(Warren *had "spilled* the beans" before Gus could tell the story.)

### VI. Future Perfect Verbs

indicate an action that will be completed BEFORE a specific time in the future.  
(Kevin *will have practiced* those steps many, many hours before December's contest.)

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**PRACTICE:** In each blank write the correct tense and form of the verb in parentheses.

Example: Jim \_\_\_\_\_ his mind before Joy could give him an explanation. (to speak)

1. Last month I \_\_\_\_\_ to the president's meeting. (to go)
2. It is a fact that night \_\_\_\_\_ day. (to follow)
3. Right now Tom \_\_\_\_\_ great. (to look)
4. Tomorrow the instructor \_\_\_\_\_ his students for the first time. (to meet)
5. By tomorrow Joan \_\_\_\_\_ the first set of her inoculations. (to take)
6. Sam always \_\_\_\_\_ his paper before he \_\_\_\_\_ his outline. (to write)
7. Gussie \_\_\_\_\_ before I could tell her that the house was safe. (to leave)
8. The television reporter announced the news, "Josh Rush just  
the finish line." (to cross)
9. Are you aware that Sandy \_\_\_\_\_ camp every summer? (to attend)
10. Flowers \_\_\_\_\_ every spring. (to bloom)

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### **VERB ANSWERS**

#### ***VERB FORMS***

- |        |                  |                   |               |                    |
|--------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. did | 2. written, used | 3. got, thrown    | 4. thrown     | 5. began           |
| 6. saw | 7. believed      | 8. asked, written | 9. left, went | 10. supposed, done |

#### ***VERB TENSES***

1. went
2. follows
3. looks
4. will meet
5. will have taken
6. has written, wrote
7. had left
8. has crossed
9. attends or attended
10. bloom