

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” .

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