



Mr. Taylor's Language Arts Class - Notes on Verb Tenses

Different forms of verbs are used to show the time of an action or time of a state of being – these forms are called **tenses** of verbs.

Present Tense – places action or condition in the present

I hear you. Here comes the bus.	There are thirty days in September.	I like music. I run on Tuesdays and Sundays.	The train leaves at 4:00 p.m.
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Future Tense – places action or condition in the future

[uses the helping verb **will** or **will not/won't**]

I will wake up late tomorrow.	I won't get up early.
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Past Tense – places action or condition in the past

We visited the museum yesterday.	The weather was rainy last week.
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Present Perfect [uses the helping verb **has** if subject is singular or **have** if subject is plural]

He has lived here for many years.	He has worn glasses all his life.	Have you ever been to Tokyo before?
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Past Perfect [uses the helping verb **had** for subjects that singular or plural]

When I arrived home, he had already called.	Jane said that she had gone to the movies.
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The Past Tense, Present Perfect Tense & Past Perfect Tense **all show a past action or condition.**

Writers can change the tense of a verb in three ways:

1. They can change the ending [example: add *-ed* to change *invent* to *invented*]
2. They can change the spelling [example: change the "o" in *know* to an "e" to make *knew*]
3. They can change the helping verb [example: change *will start* to *have started*]