

Lesson
7

Perfect Tenses

Teaching

The **present perfect tense** shows an action or condition that began in the past and continues into the present.

Present Perfect Dan **has called** every day this week.

The past perfect tense shows an action or condition in the past that came before another action or condition in the past.

Past Perfect Dan **had called** before Ellen arrived.

The future perfect tense shows an action or condition in the future that will occur before another action or condition in the future.

Future Perfect Dan **will have called** before Ellen arrives.

To form the **present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect tenses**, add *has, have, had, or will have* to the past participle.

Tense	Singular	Plural
Present Perfect has or have + past participle	I have called you have called he, she, it has called	we have called you have called they have called
Past Perfect had + past participle	I had called you had called he, she, it had called	we had called you had called they had called
Future Perfect will + have + past participle	I will have called you will have called he, she, it will have called	we will have called you will have called they will have called

Recognizing the Perfect Tenses

Underline the verb in each sentence. On the blank, write the tense of the verb.

- The film house has not developed the pictures yet. _____
- Fred will have left before Erin's arrival. _____
- Florence has been a vary gracious hostess. _____
- Andi had lost her transfer by the end of the bus ride. _____
- By tonight, I will have finished my assignment. _____
- Before the discovery of the buried chest, Joe had not believed in buried treasure. _____
- We have worked over an hour on one math problem. _____
- Until his college years, Carl had not decided on his career. _____
- The snow plows had cleared our street before the really heavy snowstorm. _____
- Have the Ortons found their dog yet? _____

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More Practice

A. Recognizing the Perfect Tenses

Underline the verb in each sentence. On the blank, write the tense of the verb.

1. Olga had figured out the answer before her teacher’s explanation. _____
2. I have walked every day now for a month. _____
3. Vickie had liked Nels until their argument. _____
4. Alf will have jogged 70 miles by the end of next week. _____
5. By lunch time, Rusty had started cooking dinner. _____
6. Ira has practiced piano every day for a week. _____
7. At this rate, we will not have finished the 30 chapters by June. _____
8. Our HMO has added a number of new physicians to the staff. _____
9. The ice on the lake will have melted long before the weekend. _____
10. The window had cracked before the wind storm. _____

B. Forming the Perfect Tenses

Complete each sentence by writing the form of the verb indicated in parentheses.

1. (*finish*, past perfect) We _____ our game before the Meteors started theirs.
2. (*graduate*, future perfect) Margie _____ before the spring semester.
3. (*vote*, past perfect) Union members _____ before they saw the contract.
4. (*exercise*, present perfect) We _____ three times this week.
5. (*talk*, past perfect) The manager _____ to the pitcher twice by that time.
6. (*clean*, future perfect) I _____ the whole kitchen by the time Mom returns.
7. (*offer*, present perfect) Angelica frequently _____ to help.
8. (*produce*, future perfect) By the end of this writing course, you _____ a plot outline and at least four chapters of your novel.
9. (*picked*, past perfect) He _____ ten bushels before the truck showed up.
10. (*search*, present perfect) The rescuers _____ the area for hours.

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Application

A. Using Verb Tenses

The following is a journal entry of a girl of the mid-1800s in a wagon train heading for California. Supply verbs to the narrative in the tenses indicated in parentheses. Use verbs from the list below.

be, expect, walk, insist, pack, lose

The first month on the trail (present perfect) _____
 challenging. Before we set out, I (past perfect) _____
 that I would ride the wagon, but instead I (present perfect)
 _____ miles every day. Mother (present perfect)
 _____ that I always wear a bonnet because of the sun. It's
 a good thing that we (past perfect) _____ so many
 bonnets, because the wind keeps blowing them off my head and across the
 prairie! I think I (future perfect) _____ all my bonnets
 before we arrive in California.

B. Using Verb Tenses

Choose a trip you have made or would like to make. Write sentences about the trip using the following verbs in the tenses indicated.

1. see (future) _____

2. pack (present perfect) _____

3. hope (past progressive) _____

4. visit (future perfect) _____

5. be (past perfect) _____

6. learn (past progressive) _____

7. try (future perfect) _____
