Perfect Tenses

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present Perfect</td>
<td>I have called you have called he, she, it has called</td>
<td>we have called you have called they have called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>had + past participle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Perfect</td>
<td>I had called you had called he, she, it had called</td>
<td>we had called you had called they had called</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>will + have + past participle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Perfect</td>
<td>I will have called you will have called he, she, it will have called</td>
<td>we will have called you will have called they will have called</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recognizing the Perfect Tenses

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

1. The film house has not developed the pictures yet. _______________________

2. Fred will have left before Erin’s arrival. _______________________

3. Florence has been a very gracious hostess. _______________________

4. Andi had lost her transfer by the end of the bus ride. _______________________

5. By tonight, I will have finished my assignment. _______________________

6. Before the discovery of the buried chest, Joe had not believed in buried treasure. _______________________

7. We have worked over an hour on one math problem. _______________________

8. Until his college years, Carl had not decided on his career. _______________________

9. The snow plows had cleared our street before the really heavy snowstorm. _______________________

10. Have the Ortons found their dog yet? _______________________

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Perfect Tenses

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.
Lesson 7

Perfect Tenses

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) ____________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________