

Lesson
6

Simple Tenses

Teaching

A **tense** is a verb form that shows the time of an action or condition. Verbs have three **simple tenses**: the present, the past, and the future. The **present tense** shows an action or condition that occurs now. The **past tense** shows an action or condition that was completed in the past. The **future tense** shows an action or condition that will occur in the future.

Present Rain **aids** plant growth. Rain **is** helpful.
Past Rain **aided** plant growth. Rain **was** helpful.
Future Rain **will aid** plant growth. Rain **will be** helpful.

The progressive form of a verb shows an action or condition that is in progress. The progressive forms of the three simple tenses are used to show that actions are, were, or will be in progress.

Present Progressive Rain **is aiding** plant growth.
Past Progressive Rain **was aiding** plant growth.
Future Progressive Rain **will be aiding** plant growth.

The **present tense** is the present principal part of the verb. The **past tense** is the past principal part. To form the **future tense**, add *will* to the present principal part.

Tense	Singular	Plural
Present	I aid / you aid / he, she, it aids	we aid / you aid / they aid
Past	I aided / you aided / he, she, it aided	we aided / you aided / they aided
Future	I will aid / you will aid / he, she, it will aid	we will aid / you will aid / they will aid

Form the present, past, and future progressive by using the forms of the verb *be* with the present participle of the verb, as in *I am talking*, *I was talking*, and *I will be talking*.

Recognizing the Simple Tenses

Identify the tense of each underlined verb. On the line, label the tense:

Present, Past, Future, or Present P, Past P, or Future P. for *present, past, or future progressive*.

- The sun is chasing the clouds away. _____
- It rained yesterday. _____
- It will be snowing before long. _____
- Clouds were darkening the sky to the west. _____
- The sun warms the earth. _____
- The warm night air will dry the puddles. _____
- The rain is spoiling our picnic plan. _____
- Rain promises future growth. _____
- Three months ago, snow was falling every day. _____
- In the morning, I will be rising early for our hike. _____

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More Practice

A. Recognizing the Simple Tenses

Identify the tense of each underlined verb. On the line, label the tense:

Present, Past, Future, or Present P, Past P., or Future P. for *present, past, or future progressive*.

1. Are you planning a picnic? _____
2. We will be organizing a baseball game. _____
3. If it rains, we won't be able to play baseball. _____
4. It rained last year, and we played baseball anyway. _____
5. If it's windy, we will be flying kites. _____
6. Last year I was paddling a canoe when it started raining. _____
7. I paddled back to the boathouse in a hurry. _____
8. We will barbecue again, won't we? _____
9. I was hoping for a balloon-toss contest with water-filled balloons. _____
10. I am looking forward to the event already. _____

B. Using the Simple Tenses

In each item, provide the form of the verb requested in parentheses.

1. (*predict*, present progressive) The meteorologists _____ gradual cooling.
2. (*snow*, future) I'm sure it _____ well before Christmas.
3. (*skate*, future progressive) We _____ on the park lake before long.
4. (*sled*, past) Last year we _____ in the park until the end of March.
5. (*skate*, present) Helen _____ but prefers skiing.
6. (*play*, past) Ali _____ hockey when she was younger.
7. (*play*, past progressive) She _____ goalie when she got a broken arm.
8. (*wait*, present progressive) My dogs _____ to go on a walk.
9. (*travel*, future progressive) Soon Eddie _____ to Florida for a vacation.
10. (*enjoy*, past progressive) People there _____ sunshine while we had snow storms.

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Application

A. Correcting Simple Tenses of Verbs

Although the times referred to in this paragraph vary from past to future, all of its verbs are in the present tense. Rewrite the paragraph, correcting verb tenses as needed. Use progressive tenses if the action is, was, or will be in progress. Underline every verb.

Today the sun shines brightly. Until the end of the week we enjoy warm weather. This contrasts with the weather last year. Last year at this time snow covers the ground. Ice causes trouble for vehicles and pedestrians. Personally, I prefer the unseasonably warm weather. I hope that next year the warm temperatures return.

B. Using Verb Forms Correctly

For each verb on the list, write the form requested in parentheses. Then write a paragraph about a topic of your choice that uses at least four of the phrases. Make sure all verb forms are used correctly.

(*find*, present) I _____ (*measure*, future) I _____

(*listen*, past) I _____ (*compare*, future progressive) I _____

(*watch*, present progressive) I _____ (*observe*, past progressive) I _____
