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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Rain aids plant growth. Rain is helpful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past</td>
<td>Rain aided plant growth. Rain was helpful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future</td>
<td>Rain will aid plant growth. Rain will be helpful.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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.

1. The sun is chasing the clouds away.
2. It rained yesterday.
3. It will be snowing before long.
4. Clouds were darkening the sky to the west.
5. The sun warms the earth.
6. The warm night air will dry the puddles.
7. The rain is spoiling our picnic plan.
9. Three months ago, snow was falling every day.
10. In the morning, I will be rising early for our hike.
Simple Tenses

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.
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.

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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 _________

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