Key Information
Verb **tenses** reveal *when* something happens. The **present tense** of a verb names an action that happens regularly. It can also express a general truth.

*I talk* to her every day.

The **past tense** of a verb names an action that has already happened.

*I talked to* her yesterday.

The **future tense** names an action that will take place in the future. The future tense is formed by adding the helping verb *will* or *shall* to the base form of the verb.

*I shall talk to* her later.

The Browns **will visit** Washington, D.C., in the spring.

A. Identifying Present, Past, and Future Tenses
Underline each verb, and write whether it is in the **present**, **past**, or **future** tense.

1. **We watched** the parade on New Year’s Day.
2. **Tomorrow** I **shall finish** this puzzle.
3. **Jorge fishes** with his uncle.
4. **I first met** Cheryl at the library.
5. **They will pass** this way.
6. **The otter washed** its food carefully.
7. **Robert Cray plays** guitar.
8. **Kevin will catch** the ball.

B. Using Present, Past, and Future Tenses
Write the form of the verb asked for in parentheses.

1. I (past of *visit*) my grandparents.
2. **Julio (future of act)** in the play.
3. **Whales (present of live)** in the ocean.
4. **Maria (past of return)** my tapes.
5. **The box (present of contain)** three surprises.
6. **My parents (future of bring)** the dessert.
7. **Teresa and her sister (past of discuss)** their choices.
8. **The porpoise (present of jump)** through the hoop.
### Key Information

Verbs have four principal parts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Form</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past Form</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>talk</td>
<td>talking</td>
<td>talked</td>
<td>talked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>play</td>
<td>playing</td>
<td>played</td>
<td>played</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These principal parts are often used with a helping verb to form a **verb phrase**. A **verb phrase** is one or more helping verbs followed by the main verb.

*We have been studying* for a test.

A **helping verb** is a verb that helps the main verb tell about an action or make a statement.

Forms of the verb *be* and *have* are the most commonly used helping verbs.

Forms of *be* are often used with the present participle.

*I am talking.*

Forms of *have* are often used with the past participle.

*She has talked.*

### A. Identifying Helping Verbs and Main Verbs

Underline the verb phrase once, and underline the main verb twice.

1. I was looking in the closet.
2. Maria has missed the bus.
3. The students were talking loudly.
4. The cold weather had begun.
5. Firefighters have helped people for years.
6. I am trying my best.
7. We are relying on each other.
8. Our family was traveling during December.

### B. Identifying Past and Present Participles

Underline the verb phrase and write whether the main verb is a present participle or a past participle.

1. The workers were improving the road.
2. I am working on my math.
3. Caroline was feeding her cat.
4. The mechanic had repaired the truck.
5. You have tried everything now.
**10.6 Present and Past Progressive Forms**

**Key Information**

The **present progressive form** of a verb tells about an action that is continuing now. It consists of the present participle and the helping verb am, is, or are.

The students **are talking** to one another.

The **past progressive form** of a verb names an action that continued for some time in the past. It consists of the present participle and the helping verb was or were.

The students **were talking** for hours.

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**A. Using the Present Progressive Form**

Write the present progressive form of the verb in parentheses.

1. My basketball team (**sell**) candy.
2. We (**raise**) money for new uniforms.
3. My father (**help**) us by providing transportation.
4. He (**drive**) us around town.
5. We (**hope**) to raise enough for new shoes.
6. Other teams (**try**) to help.
7. The football team (**play**) an exhibition game.
8. You (**carry**) a heavy load.

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**B. Using the Past Progressive Form**

Write the past progressive form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I (**sing**) in the choir.
2. Jimmy (**play**) in my band.
3. After the concert, the crowd (**call**) for more.
4. Saturday, I (**look**) for a new guitar.
5. Because of the holiday, the stores (**close**) early.
6. You (**walk**) with me.
7. We (**talk**) about our favorite songs.
8. I (**think**) about buying a Gibson.
10.7 Perfect Tenses

Key Information

The **present perfect tense** of a verb tells about something that happened at an indefinite time in the past. It also tells about an action that happened in the past and is still happening now. This tense consists of the helping verb *have* or *has* followed by the past participle of the main verb.

- My father **has driven** station wagons for many years.

The **past perfect tense** names an action that took place before another action or event in the past. This tense consists of the helping verb *had* and the past participle of the main verb.

- Until he traded it in, my father **had driven** that station wagon for ten years.

A. Distinguishing Tenses

Underline the verb or verb phrase. Write whether it is in the present, past, present perfect, or past perfect tense.

1. Eagles live in these mountains. ______________
2. They have lived here for centuries. ______________
3. For years I had looked for one. ______________
4. I never saw an eagle. ______________
5. My parents had helped me. ______________
6. I have watched every day for weeks. ______________

B. Using the Perfect Tenses

Underline the verbs in these sentences. Change the present tense verbs to the present perfect tense; change the past tense verbs to the past perfect tense.

1. Maria read about holiday traditions. __________________
2. Yogi lives in Jellystone Park. __________________
3. My parents volunteer at my school. __________________
4. The police officer directed traffic. __________________
5. The plane flight ended early. __________________
6. Maggie and George jump on the trampoline. __________________
10.8-9 Irregular Verbs

Key Information

The past and past participle forms of irregular verbs are not formed by adding -ed.

For some irregular verbs one vowel changes to form the past and past participle.

- Base: begin  
  Past: began  
  Past Participle: begun

For some irregular verbs the past and past participle are the same.

- Base: sit  
  Past: sat  
  Past Participle: sat

For a few verbs the base form and the past participle are the same.

- Base: run  
  Past: ran  
  Past Participle: run

For some verbs the past form ends in -ew and the past participle in -wn.

- Base: know  
  Past: knew  
  Past Participle: known

Some past participles end in -en.

- Base: write  
  Past: wrote  
  Past Participle: written

For some verbs the past and the past participle do not follow a pattern.

- Base: go  
  Past: went  
  Past Participle: gone

For a few verbs the base form, the past form, and the past participle are the same.

- Base: put  
  Past: put  
  Past Participle: put

A. Using the Past Tense of Irregular Verbs

Write the past tense form of the verb in parentheses.

1. My brother (drink) three glasses of milk today.
2. I (swim) twelve laps this morning.
3. Consuela (know) everyone in town.
4. I (teach) guitar to young children.
5. I (tear) my sleeve on that nail.
6. My dad (drive) by the park.

B. Using the Past Participle of Irregular Verbs

Write the past participle of the verb in parentheses.

1. I have (feel) a little ill lately.
2. She has (do) all her chores.
3. Have you (write) your essay yet?
4. Jeremy has (fell) again.
5. Julia has (grew) tomatoes for years.
6. I have (run) three races today.