

Verbal Tenses

Exercise 1: Look at each sentence and identify the verb tense. Use the options from the box

Simple Future - Present Perfect - Simple Present - Future Perfect - Past Progressive

- I have lived here for ten years.
Tense: _____
- She was cooking when I arrived.
Tense: _____
- We will go to the beach next weekend.
Tense: _____
- He writes a new book every year.
Tense: _____
- By the time you arrive, I will have left.
Tense: _____

Exercise 2: Choose the correct verb form to complete each sentence. Each sentence focuses on a different verb tense.

- She (reads / is reading) a book about astrophysics at the moment.
- They (went / have gone) to Japan three times in the last five years.
- She (had been practicing / was practicing) for months before she finally won the competition.
- By the time we arrived, the guests (left / had left) the party.
- When I called, she (was playing / played) the piano.
- I (have never tried / never tried) Ethiopian food before.
- This time next year, we (will have moved / will move) to our new house.

- By the time the professor checked, the students (had already submitted / submitted) their assignments.
- The train (arrives / is arriving) at 5:45 PM every day.
- He (has been learning / has learned) French for five years.
- By the time she finishes her degree, she (will have studied / will study) for seven years.
- We (were traveling / traveled) through South America when we met her.
- The company (has been growing / is growing) steadily over the past decade.
- We (had been driving / drove) for five hours before we found a gas station.

Exercise 3: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Pay attention to the context and time markers in each sentence. Also, identify the verbal tense for each case.

- Look! The baby _____ (sleep) peacefully.
- When I walked into the office, my coworkers _____ (discuss) an important project.
- By the time we arrived at the airport, the plane _____ (already/take off).
- I _____ (work) at this company for six years before I decided to quit.
- Next year at this time, we _____ (travel) through South America.
- He _____ (always/believe) in hard work and persistence.
- By 2030, scientists _____ (develop) even more advanced AI technology.
- She _____ (read) a book every night before bed.
- She was exhausted because she _____ (run) for almost an hour.
- While he _____ (fix) the car, his phone rang.
- We _____ (not see) each other since the wedding.
- If you need me, I _____ (be) in my office.
- When we were kids, we _____ (spend) entire summers at our grandmother's house.
- The company _____ (expand) rapidly over the last five years.
- By the time she gets home, we _____ (prepare) dinner.
- For the past few months, I _____ (train) for the marathon.
- This time tomorrow, they _____ (celebrate) their anniversary.
- Before the storm hit, the rescue team _____ (evacuate) most of the residents.
- I _____ (never/be) to Australia, but I'd love to go someday.
- The scientist _____ (work) on the experiment when the power went out.
- By the time we retire, we _____ (work) for over 40 years.
- They _____ (visit) their grandparents last weekend.

Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Pay attention to the time markers and context.

Last summer, Jake and his friends _____ (decide) to go on a road trip across the country. They _____ (plan) the trip for months before they finally set off. By the time they _____ (leave) their hometown, they _____ (already/pack) everything they needed.

The first day was exciting. While Jake _____ (drive), his best friend Tom _____ (read) the map to find the best route. The sun _____ (shine), and everything _____ (seem) perfect. Suddenly, the car _____ (break down) in the middle of the highway. They _____ (be) on the road for less than an hour, so they didn't expect that to happen so soon!

Luckily, they _____ (join) a roadside assistance program before the trip, so within an hour, a mechanic _____ (arrive) to help them. While the mechanic _____ (fix) the engine, Jake and Tom _____ (wait) by the side of the road, enjoying the view of the mountains in the distance.

By the time they got back on the road, it _____ (be) already late afternoon. They _____ (only/drove) for about twenty minutes after the repair when they finally _____ (reach) their first destination, a small town by the coast. They _____ (feel) exhausted but happy.

The next morning, they _____ (wake up) early because they _____ (plan) to visit a famous lighthouse nearby. When they _____ (arrive), they _____ (realize) they _____ (never/see) such a breathtaking view before.

By the end of the trip, they _____ (travel) over 3,000 miles and _____ (create) unforgettable memories. On the drive back home, they _____ (already/discuss) where they would go next.

ANSWER KEY

Exercise 1: Look at each sentence and identify the verb tense. Use the options from the box

Simple Future - Present Perfect - Simple Present - Future Perfect - Past Progressive

- I have lived here for ten years.
Tense: Present Perfect
- She was cooking when I arrived.
Tense: Past Progressive
- We will go to the beach next weekend.
Tense: Simple Future
- He writes a new book every year.
Tense: Simple Present
- By the time you arrive, I will have left.
Tense: Future Perfect

Exercise 2: Choose the correct verb form to complete each sentence. Each sentence focuses on a different verb tense.

- She (reads / **is reading**) a book about astrophysics at the moment.
- They (**went** / have gone) to Japan three times in the last five years.
- She (**had been practicing** / was practicing) for months before she finally won the competition.
- By the time we arrived, the guests (left / **had left**) the party.
- When I called, she (**was playing** / played) the piano.
- I (**have never tried** / never tried) Ethiopian food before.
- This time next year, we (**will have moved** / will move) to our new house.
- By the time the professor checked, the students (**had already submitted** / submitted) their assignments.

- The train (**arrives** / is arriving) at 5:45 PM every day.
- He (**has been learning** / has learned) French for five years.
- By the time she finishes her degree, she (**will have studied** / will study) for seven years.
- We (**were traveling** / traveled) through South America when we met her.
- The company (**has been growing** / is growing) steadily over the past decade.
- We (**had been driving** / drove) for five hours before we found a gas station.

Exercise 3: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Pay attention to the context and time markers in each sentence. Also, identify the verbal tense for each case.

- Look! The baby **is sleeping** peacefully. (**Present Progressive**)
- When I walked into the office, my coworkers **were discussing** an important project. (**Past Progressive**)
- By the time we arrived at the airport, the plane **had already taken off**. (**Past Perfect**)
- I **had been working** at this company for six years before I decided to quit. (**Past Perfect Progressive**)
- Next year at this time, we **will be traveling** through South America. (**Future Progressive**)
- He **has always believed** in hard work and persistence. (**Present Perfect**)
- By 2030, scientists **will have developed** even more advanced AI technology. (**Future Perfect**)
- She **reads** a book every night before bed. (**Simple Present**)
- She was exhausted because she **had been running** for almost an hour. (**Past Perfect Progressive**)
- While he **was fixing** the car, his phone rang. (**Past Progressive**)
- We **haven't seen** each other since the wedding. (**Present Perfect Negative**)
- If you need me, I **will be** in my office. (**Simple Future**)
- When we were kids, we **spent** entire summers at our grandmother's house. (**Simple Past**)
- The company **has been expanding** rapidly over the last five years. (**Present Perfect Progressive**)
- By the time she gets home, we **will have prepared** dinner. (**Future Perfect**)
- For the past few months, I **have been training** for the marathon. (**Present Perfect Progressive**)
- This time tomorrow, they **will be celebrating** their anniversary. (**Future Progressive**)

- Before the storm hit, the rescue team **had evacuated** most of the residents. (**Past Perfect**)
- I **have never been** to Australia, but I'd love to go someday. (**Present Perfect**)
- The scientist **was working** on the experiment when the power went out. (**Past Progressive**)
- By the time we retire, we **will have been working** for over 40 years. (**Future Perfect Progressive**)
- They **visited** their grandparents last weekend. (**Simple Past**)

Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Pay attention to the time markers and context.

Last summer, Jake and his friends **decided** to go on a road trip across the country. They **had been planning** the trip for months before they finally set off. By the time they **left** their hometown, they **had already packed** everything they needed.

The first day was exciting. While Jake **was driving**, his best friend Tom **was reading** the map to find the best route. The sun **was shining**, and everything **seemed** perfect. Suddenly, the car **broke down** in the middle of the highway. **They had been on the road for less than an hour, so they did not expect that to happen so soon!**

Luckily, they **had joined** a roadside assistance program before the trip, so within an hour, a mechanic **arrived** to help them. While the mechanic **was fixing** the engine, Jake and Tom **were waiting** by the side of the road, enjoying the view of the mountains in the distance.

By the time they got back on the road, it **was** already late afternoon. **They had only been driving for about twenty minutes after the repair when they finally reached their first destination, a small town by the coast.** They **felt** exhausted but happy.

The next morning, they **woke up** early because they **had planned** to visit a famous lighthouse nearby. When they **arrived**, they **realized** they **had never seen** such a breathtaking view before.

By the end of the trip, they **had traveled** over 3,000 miles and **had created** unforgettable memories. On the drive back home, they **were already discussing** where they would go next.