

Verb Tenses: How It Works

The tense of a verb tells when something happens: in the past, in the present or in the future.

1. Past

It already happened. Many past tense verbs end in -ed.

Yesterday Pam **planted** a seed.

2. Present

It is happening now, or it happens often.

Today Pam **plants** a seed.

3. Future

It has not happened yet. Put **will** before the verb.

Tomorrow Pam **will plant** a seed.

4. Time words help

Past: yesterday, last week, long ago

Present: now, today, every day

Future: tomorrow, next week, soon

How to find the tense

1

Find the verb.

What is the action?

2

Look for time words.

Yesterday, now, tomorrow.

3

Check the verb.

An -ed ending is past. The word will be future.

Adding -ed

Most verbs: walk → **walked**

Ends in e, just add d: bake → **baked**

Short vowel and one consonant, double it: hop → **hopped**

Ends in a consonant and y, change y to i: cry → **cried**

Watch out

Some verbs do not take -ed. The whole word changes.

run → **ran** go → **went**

eat → **ate** see → **saw**

is → **was** have → **had**

Not **runned** or **goed**.