

VERBS

A **verb** is a word that expresses an action or state of being. For example, the words *run*, *think*, and *is* are all verbs. There are a few main types of verbs that are commonly used:

ACTION VERBS

Also called “dynamic verbs,” action verbs are pretty self-explanatory: They are words that describe a physical action.

Donna rides her bike to school.

Marcus hit a home run.



STATE-OF-BEING VERBS

Also called “stative verbs,” state-of-being verbs are the opposite of action verbs. These verbs are used to describe the subject’s state or feeling.

Connie understood her math homework.

Leyni likes chocolate bars.



HELPING VERBS

Also called “auxiliary verbs,” helping verbs are always paired with a main verb that describes the main action. The helping verb changes the main verb’s tense or voice.

I watch TV every night.

— Adding the helping verb *have* changes the tense. →

I have watched TV every night this week.

I ate that piece of pizza.

— Adding the helping verb *was* changes the voice. →

That piece of pizza was eaten by me.

VERB TENSES

A **verb tense** shows when an action or state of being takes place and how long it occurs. There are many different tenses in English, but there are four main tenses that we'll cover here.

PRESENT TENSE

The present tense is the standard tense in English. It's used to describe things that are currently happening.

play	eat	say	catch
jump	read	push	keep
kick	sit	throw	wait

I patiently wait for my food.
She throws the ball to her dog.

PAST TENSE

The past tense is used to describe things that have already happened and have finished happening.

played	ate	said	caught
jumped	read	pushed	kept
kicked	sat	threw	waited

Mom said I need to clean my room.
Isaac jumped into the pool.

FUTURE TENSE

The future tense is used to describe things that will happen at some point in the future.

will play	will eat	is going to eat
will jump	will read	is going to read
will kick	will sit	is going to sit

Josh is going to sit on the front row.
He will read two books this month.

PERFECT TENSE

The perfect tense is used to describe things that relate to other points in time.

have played	will have said
have jumped	will have pushed
have kicked	will have thrown

I have played basketball since I was a child.

This indicates that the action started in the past and is still happening in the present.

Callie will have walked 12 miles by noon.

This indicates that the action is happening in the present and will end in the future.