

Verb Tense Shifting

Tenses Explained

Verbs come in the past, present and future form.

Past - This form describes an event that has occurred previous to today.

Present - Is occurring right now! At this very moment right in front of you!

Future - These are going to occur in the future, for example tomorrow or the day after.

There are also two special forms that are very common.

Past Participle - A verb ending with “ed” or “en” Examples: eaten, walked

Present Participle - A verb that ends with “ing” Example: Eating, Sleeping, practicing

What is a Participle you ask?

A **participle** is a modifier attached to a verb. This gives the verb the ability to **describe** the subject in a sentence. These modifiers can be “ing” for present or “ed” for past.

Example:

The mechanic is working on my truck.

In this case the verb “work” is changed to “working” and is describing the action associated with “my truck.”

Here are some common verbs and their different conjugations

Past	Present	Future	Past Participle	Present Participle
Walked	Walk	Will Walk	Walked	Walking
Helped	Help	Will Help	Helped	Helping
Gave	Give	Will Give	Given	Giving
Was, Were	Be	Will Be	Been	Being

Here are some exercises for you to try.

Use the Right Tense!

Choose the right type of verb for the sentence. In the space below, fill in the right form of the verb.

1-We were (suppose) to leave for Shawnee before lunch, but of course Terence was late.

2- Tomorrow, I (help) my friend babysit her baby while her husband is working.

3- I was (awaken) at midnight by the grandfather clock at the end of the hall.

4- I am (give) my sister a Barbie doll for her 6th birthday.

5- Tonight Yvette (hope) to read *The Glass Menagerie* before going to bed.

Identify the Tense

What type of verb tense is this? Pay attention to when the action is occurring. Verbs can be in Past, Present, future, Present Participle or Past Participle form.

1-Let's finish our homework.

2- Back in the day I could swim 4 miles in 30 minutes! It was awesome.

3-My soccer has beaten every team on the west coast.

4-The church is singing so loud you can hear it down the street.

5- You will take the EPE in November.

Staying Consistent in Real Life

Read the following passage and circle the verbs that are in the wrong tense. Not all of these verbs will be wrong. Then, write the correct tense of the verb in the space provided below to create tense consistency.

(1) In the L.A. Basin, people know why the Santa Anas are called the “devil winds.” (2) They came in from the desert searing hot like the breath of a blast furnace, tumbling over the mountain ranges and streaking down the canyons. (3) Pitilessly they destroy and disrupt. (4) Trees are stripped of foliage, broken, and toppled. (5) Fires that start in the foothills may become fire storms and bombard the downwind areas with smoke, ash, and burning embers. (6) But even without fire, the winds picked up sand, dirt, and debris and send them toward the ocean as a hot, dry, dirty tide going out. (7) All the time the Santa Anas are relentless, humming, howling, and whining through yards, and rattling and rippling loose shingles. (8) Palm fronds slapped and clatter. (9) Dogs howled and often panic and run away; birds hunkered down in wind breaks; and human beings mostly stay inside, wiping up the dust, coughing, and get grumpy. (10) The devil winds earned their reputation.

from “The Santa Anas”
Juanita Rivera

Here you may list all the verbs in correct form. If there are two verbs in one sentence, list both.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Answer Key

Use the Right Tense!

1-Supposed

2-Will help

3-Awakened

4-Giving

5-Hopes

Identify the Tense

1-Present

2-Past

3-Past Participle

4-Present Participle

5-Future

Staying Consistent in Real Life

1-Know

2-Come

3-Destroy and Disrupt

4-Stripped

5-start, may become

6-pick and send

7-are

8-slap and clatter

9-howl, panic, run, hunker, stay and get

10-earn or have earned