

SUMMARY OF VERB TENSES

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AFFIRMATIVE: subject + auxiliary verb + action verb + ...
 NEGATIVE: subject + auxiliary verb + not + action verb + ...

YES/NO QUESTION: auxiliary verb* + subject + action verb + ...
 WH- QUESTION: WH- + auxiliary verb* + subject + action verb + ...
 *first word only of verb marker if more than one.

TENSE	PURPOSE	TIME?	AUXILIARY VERB	ACTION "VERB"	EXAMPLE
Progressive (Continuous)	action at a moment in the...	past	was; were	*present participle OR *noun OR *adjective OR *place	I was speaking English,
		present	am; are; is		You are happy in Massachusetts.
		future	will be		You will be an American.
Simple	action at any time (general or indefinite) in the...	past	did	base verb	He did speak English. (<i>I spoke English.</i>)
		present	do; does		She does speak English. (<i>She speaks English.</i>)
		future	will		It will speak English.
Perfect	completed action at unspecified time in the ...	past	had	past participle	We had spoken English.
		present	have; has		You have spoken English.
		future	will have		They will have spoken English.
Perfect Continuous	Indicates duration of action in the...	past	had been	present participle	I had been speaking English for many years.
		present	have/has been		You have been speaking English for many years.
		future	will have been		He will have been speaking English for many years.
Conditional	shows consequence of an imaginary event or situation in the ...	past <i>(after-the-fact)</i>	(If) had ...(then) modal have	past participle past participle	If you had spoken English, , I would have spoken English.
		present <i>(contrary-to-fact)</i>	(If) ---- ... (then) would	verb in "past" base verb	If you spoke English, I would speak English.
		future <i>(cause-and-effect)</i>	(If) ---- ... (then) will	verb in "present" base verb	If you speak English, I will speak English.
"Modals"	Show ability in the ...	past	could	base verb	He could speak English yesterday.
		present & future	can		She can speak English (today/tomorrow).
	Give advice or suggestion in the ...	past	should have	past participle	It should have spoken English yesterday.
		present & future	should	base verb	We should Speak English (today/tomorrow).
	Express certainty or necessity in the...	past	must have	past participle	You must have spoken English yesterday.
		present & future	must	base verb	They must speak English (today/tomorrow).
	Express expectation in the...	past	was/were supposed to have	past participle	I was supposed to have spoken English.
		present & future	am/are/is supposed to	base verb	You are supposed to speak English (today/tomorrow).
	Give permission in the...	past	n/a	n/a	--
		present & future	may	base verb	He may speak English (today/tomorrow)
	Express possibility in the...	past	might have	past participle	She might have spoken English yesterday.
		present & future	might	base verb	It might speak English (today/tomorrow).
Express desire or interest in the...	past	would have	past participle	We would have spoken English yesterday.	
	present & future	would	base verb	You would speak English (today/tomorrow).	
Express a preference in the...	past	would rather have	past participle	They would rather have spoken English yesterday.	
	present & future	would rather	base verb	They would rather speak English.	