

Verb Tense

Tense is the timing of when something occurred. Verbs are, of course, actions, both physical and mental. Verb tense, then, explains when an action happened – in the past, the present, or the future.

Past tense describes actions that have already taken place. Present tense describes actions that are currently happening, or are continuing to happen. Future tense describes actions that will happen. The following chart shows examples of the varying degrees in each tense of the verb *bake*.

PAST

I baked cookies.

I was baking cookies.

I had baked cookies.

I had been baking cookies.

PRESENT

I bake cookies.

I am baking cookies.

I have baked cookies.

I have been baking cookies.

FUTURE

I will bake cookies.

I will be baking cookies.

I will have baked cookies.

I will have been baking cookies.

YOUR TURN:

Sometimes verbs are irregular, meaning that they change their spelling to fit a different tense, rather than simply adding an -ed ending. Such is the case with the verb *see*. Create your own chart, similar to the example above, using the verb *see*.

PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE