

Tense

The **tense** of a verb indicates the time of the action or of the state of being expressed by the verb.

Each of the six tenses has its own special uses:

PRESENT	I speak	PRESENT PERFECT	I have spoken
PAST	I spoke	PAST PERFECT	I had spoken
FUTURE	I will (shall) speak	FUTURE PERFECT	I will (shall) have spoken

The **progressive form** of each tense expresses continuing action. It consists of a form of the verb *be* plus the present participle of a verb.

EXERCISE Change the tense of the verb in each of the following sentences to the tense indicated in parentheses. Cross out the verb in the sentence, and write the new verb form above the original one.

Example	has been sitting She sits . (present perfect progressive)
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1. I need a hat. (*past*)
2. They buy a car. (*present perfect*)
3. She gives a speech. (*future*)
4. You go home. (*past perfect progressive*)
5. We eat lunch. (*past progressive*)
6. He studies for three hours. (*future perfect progressive*)
7. They sing in the choir. (*future progressive*)
8. I walk to the store. (*present progressive*)

9. You hand me the book. (*past perfect*)
10. We will vote by tomorrow. (*future perfect*)
11. You do your homework. (*present perfect progressive*)
12. She brings the groceries in. (*future*)
13. He leaves it here. (*past progressive*)
14. I rake the yard. (*past perfect*)
15. We write letters. (*future progressive*)
16. She does the dishes. (*future perfect*)
17. The alarm rings early. (*past*)
18. She tells the story. (*past perfect progressive*)
19. The clock strikes one. (*present perfect*)
20. I throw the ball. (*present perfect progressive*)

Answer Keys:

1. I needed a hat.
2. They have bought a car.
3. She will give a speech.
4. You had been going home.
5. We were eating lunch.
6. He will have been studying for three hours.
7. They will be singing the choir.
8. I am walking to the store.
9. You had handed me the book.
10. We will have voted by tomorrow.
11. You have been doing your homework.
12. She will bring the groceries in.
13. He was leaving it here.
14. I had raked the yard.
15. We will be writing letters.
16. She will have done the dishes.
17. The alarm rang early.
18. She had been telling stories.
19. The clock has struck one.
20. I have been throwing the ball.