

Past, Present, and Future Tenses

The **tense** of a verb shows when something happens. Verbs in the **present tense** show action that happens now. Most present-tense singular verbs end with -s or -es. Most present-tense plural verbs do not end with -s or -es.

The king enters the hall. His subjects bow.

Verbs in the **past tense** show action that has already happened. Most verbs in the past tense end in -ed.

Long ago, a fairy enchanted the princess.

Verbs in the **future tense** show action that will happen. Add *will* (or *shall*) to most verbs to show the future tense.

She will sleep now.

- Some regular verbs change spelling when -ed is added. For verbs ending in *e*, drop the *e* and add -ed: *liked, loved*. For verbs ending in a consonant and *y*, change the *y* to *i* and add -ed: *hurried, carried*.
- For most one-syllable verbs that end in one vowel followed by one consonant, double the consonant and add -ed: *stopped, napped*.
- Irregular verbs change spelling to form the past tense: *are/were, bring/brought, eat/ate, find/found, fly/flew, go/went, have/had, is/was, make/made, see/saw, sit/sat, take/took, tell/told, think/thought, write/wrote*.

Directions Identify the tense of each underlined verb. Write *present, past, or future*.

1. Everyone wants a cure for boredom.
2. I will award a prize for the best invention.
3. Nina competed for the prize last year.
4. Her invention is clever.
5. It received second prize.
6. It will ring when you yawn.
7. Nina tried the machine on me.

present
future
past
present
past
future
past

Directions Write the correct present, past, and future tense of each verb.

Verb	Present	Past	Future
8. ask	He <u>asks</u>	He <u>asked</u>	He <u>will ask</u>
9. lift	We <u>lift</u>	We <u>lifted</u>	We <u>will lift</u>
10. fly	It <u>flies</u>	It <u>flew</u>	It <u>will fly</u>