

# 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. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Verb	Present	Past	Future
8. ask	He _____.	He _____.	He _____.
9. lift	We _____.	We _____.	We _____.
10. fly	It _____.	It _____.	It _____.