

VERB OVERVIEW

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Every verb in the English language has 5 forms:

Base Form

Past Tense

Past Participle

Present Participle

-S Form

	Regular: Help	Irregular: Give	Irregular: Be
<i>Base Form</i>	Help	Give	Be
<i>Past Tense</i>	Helped	Gave	Was, were
<i>Past Participle</i>	Helped	Given	Been
<i>Present Participle</i>	Helping	Giving	Being
<i>-S Form</i>	Helps	Gives	Is

Verbs can make a sentence passive or active. In most scenarios the writer should try and speak in active voice.

Active voice: a type of sentence or clause in which the subject performs or causes the action expressed by the verb.

- Humans *create* a universe by symbolic meanings.
- The fireman *saved* the dog.

Passive Voice: a type of sentence or clause in which the subject receives the action of the verb. To write a verb in the passive voice, use a form of *be* with past participle.

- A universe of symbolic meanings *is created* by humans.
- The dog *was saved* by the fireman.

Simple tenses	
Simple Present <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General facts • States of being • Habitual, repetitive actions • Scheduled future events 	<p style="text-align: center;">base form or –s form</p> <p>Sometimes I <i>eat</i> pizza.</p> <p>Ice <i>becomes</i> water at 32 degrees Fahrenheit.</p> <p>The Smiths <i>run</i> a marathon every summer.</p> <p>The flight <i>arrives</i> in Fort Lauderdale, Florida at 2:30 p.m.</p>
Simple past <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed actions at a specific time in the past • Facts or states of being in the past 	<p style="text-align: center;">base form + ed or –d or irregular form</p> <p>The hurricane <i>wrecked</i> my property. Eliot <i>drove</i> to Philly three years ago.</p> <p>When Jake was little, he always <i>ran</i> across the hallways at school.</p>
Simple future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future actions, promises, or predictions 	<p style="text-align: center;">will + base form</p> <p>I <i>will brush</i> my dog tomorrow. The red moon eclipse <i>will begin</i> around four a.m.</p>
Simple progressive forms	
Present progressive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions in progress at the present time, not continuing indefinitely • Future actions (with <i>leave, go, come, move, etc.</i>) 	<p style="text-align: center;">am, is, are + present participle</p> <p>The senators <i>are plotting</i> against Caesar at Brutus' house. The burglar <i>is stealing</i> the car.</p> <p>I <i>am leaving</i> tonight.</p>

<p>Past Progressive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions in progress at a specific time in the past • Was going to, were going to for past plans that did not happen 	<p style="text-align: center;">was, were + present participle</p> <p>We <i>were lying</i> down in green pastures.</p> <p>We <i>were going</i> to walk downtown, but we took a taxi instead.</p>
<p>Perfect tense</p>	
<p>Present Perfect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetitive or constant actions that began in the past and continue to the present • Actions that happened at an unknown or unspecified past time 	<p style="text-align: center;">has, have + past participle</p> <p>I <i>have loved</i> dogs since I was a child. Erica <i>has worked</i> in Alamance County for ten years.</p> <p>Nyra <i>has visited</i> Olive Garden eight times.</p>
<p>Past Perfect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions that began or occurred before another time in the past 	<p style="text-align: center;">had + past participle</p> <p>Philip <i>had just cooked</i> when the game started.</p>
<p>Perfect progressive forms</p>	
<p>Present Perfect Progressive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous actions that began in the past and continue to the present 	<p style="text-align: center;">has, have + been + present participle</p> <p>The people of Pakistan <i>have been fighting</i> off military governments for years.</p>
<p>Past Perfect Progressive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions that began and continued in the past until another past action 	<p style="text-align: center;">had + been + present participle</p> <p>By the time I was recruited to play for Duke, I <i>had been playing</i> basketball for years.</p>