

What is Verb Tense?

Verb tense conveys time. Verbs show tense (time) by changing form.

Simple tenses divide time into present, past, and future.

The **present tense** describes what happens regularly, what takes place in the present, and what is consistently or generally true.

The **past tense** tells of an action completed or a condition ended.

The **future tense** indicates action yet to be taken or a condition not yet experienced.

Rick **wants** to speak Spanish fluently. (present tense)

Rick **wanted** to improve rapidly. (past tense)

Rick **will want** to progress even further next year. (future tense)

SIMPLE TENSES

	Regular Verb	Irregular Verb	Progressive Form
Present	I talk.	I eat.	I am talking. I am eating.
Past	I talked.	I ate.	I was talking. I was eating.
Future	I will talk.	I will eat.	I will be talking. I will be eating.

*** TUTOR TIP:** It is important to remember that while you are writing a paper, the verb tense needs to stay consistent throughout the work.