

FORMULAS FOR VERB TENSES

Simple Present:

Base form of the verb (infinitive without *to*) or, for third-person singular, add *-s* or *-es*.

Examples: I write, you write, we write, he/she/the student writes, they/the students write

Present Progressive:

am/is/are + present participle (*-ing*)

Examples: I am reading, you are reading, he/she/the student is reading, we are reading, they/the students are reading

Simple Past:

Regular verbs: base form + *ed*

Examples: I walked, you walked, he/she/the student walked, we walked, they/the students walked

*Note: Many verbs have irregular past-tense forms. Some common irregular past-tense forms include *took*, *ate*, and *came*. Consult an ESL grammar book for a list of common verbs that have irregular past-tense forms. You can also find irregular past-tense forms in the dictionary under the base form of the verb.

Past Progressive:

was/were + present participle (*-ing*)

Examples: I was reading, you were reading he/she/the student was reading, we were reading, they/the students were reading

Present Perfect:

has/have + past participle

Examples: I have walked, you have walked, he/she/the student has walked, we have walked, they/the students have walked

*Note: Many past-participle forms are irregular (for example, *known*, *seen*, *written*, *met*). Check an ESL grammar book for lists of common verbs that have irregular past-participle forms. You will also find irregular past-participles of individual verbs in the dictionary, under the base form of the verb.

Present Perfect Progressive:

has/have + been + present participle (*-ing*)

Examples: I have been waiting, you have been waiting, he/she/the student has been waiting, we have been waiting, they/the students have been waiting

Past Perfect:

had + past participle

Examples: I had called, you had called, he/she/the student had called, we had called, they/the students had called

*Note: Many past-participle forms are irregular (for example, *written, met, known*). Check an ESL grammar book for lists of common verbs that have irregular past-participle forms. You can also look up irregular past participles of individual verbs in the dictionary under the base form of the verb.

Past Perfect Progressive:

had + been + present participle (-ing)

Examples: I had been waiting, you had been waiting, he/she/the student had been waiting, we had been waiting, they/the students had been waiting

Future:

will + base form

Examples: I will attend, you will attend, he/she/the student will attend, we will attend, they/the students will attend

*Note: Do not use an *-s* on the base form of the verb in the third-person singular.

Future Progressive:

will + be + present participle (-ing)

Examples: I will be leaving, you will be leaving, he/she/the student will be leaving, we will be leaving, they/the students will be leaving

Future Perfect:

will + have + past participle

Examples: I will have gone, you will have gone, he/she/the student will have gone, we will have gone, they/the students will have gone

Future Perfect Progressive:

will + have + been + present participle

Examples: I will have been practicing, you will have been practicing, he/she/the student will have been practicing, they/the students will have been practicing