

Verb Tenses

The present, past, and future tenses are used for different reasons. In order to express your ideas clearly and precisely, use verb tenses correctly by paying particular attention to the context in which they appear.

Present

The verb forms used in the present tense include the following:

Simple present	Present perfect	Present progressive	Present perfect progressive
I write	I have written	I am writing	I have been writing
You write	You have written	You are writing	You have been writing
He writes	He has written	He is writing	He has been writing
We write	We have written	We are writing	We have been writing
You write	You have written	You are writing	You have been writing
They write	They have written	They are writing	They have been writing

The present tense is used to relate an author's ideas.

In his latest article on biodiversity, Green **claims** that Fairfield's data are not reliable.

The present tense is used to discuss the ideas, theories, and concepts issued in the literature.

Green's remarks **are** very relevant, especially when it comes to taxonomy. In fact, he **has made** one of the most compelling cases in favor of introducing a new species classification system.

The present tense is used to make personal observations about the ideas issued in the literature.

Though he **has made** a number of important contributions to his field of research, Green **remains** silent to this day on the important question of extinction.

Past

The verb forms used in the past tense include the following:

Simple past	Past perfect	Past progressive	Past perfect progressive
I wrote	I had written	I was writing	I had been writing
You wrote	You had written	You were writing	You had been writing
He wrote	He had written	He was writing	He had been writing
We wrote	We had written	We were writing	We had been writing
You wrote	You had written	You were writing	You had been writing
They wrote	They had written	They were writing	They had been writing

The past tense is used to recount past events and obtained results.

Jones and Green **conducted** experiments over a ten-year period. Afterwards, they **determined** that it **was** impossible to recreate the specimen that they **had used** during these experiments.

To know more, see *Checkmate, Essentials of English Grammar*, the *Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers*, or similar writing guides.

Future

The verb forms used in the future tense include the following:

Simple future	Future perfect	Future progressive	Future perfect progressive
I will write	I will have written	I will be writing	I will have been writing
You will write	You will have written	You will be writing	You will have been writing
He will write	He will have written	He will be writing	He will have been writing
We will write	We will have written	We will be writing	We will have been writing
You will write	You will have written	You will be writing	You will have been writing
They will write	They will have written	They will be writing	They will have been writing

The future tense is used to describe the purpose of a paper and the chosen methodology.

This paper **will challenge** Jones and Green's conclusions on biodiversity, and **will propose** a new approach to the problem of species classification.

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