

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- A **main verb** shows the main action or state of being in a sentence.
- A **helping verb** helps the main verb show tense. Helping verbs include forms of *be*, *do*, and *have*, as well as *will*, *can*, *may*, *should*, and *must*.
- A **verb phrase** consists of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.

Write the verb phrases in the following sentences.

1. The northern states have suffered a drought. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The weather has been hot and dry for weeks. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The farmers have hoped for rain. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A good rain should save the dry crops. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The harvest season is approaching. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The weather may turn cooler next month. \_\_\_\_\_
7. We have planned a hayride for October. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The autumn leaves will change colors. \_\_\_\_\_
9. In winter, the temperature will drop even more. \_\_\_\_\_
10. We can expect snow in January. \_\_\_\_\_

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- **Perfect tenses** use a form of *have* followed by a past participle, which is usually the *-ed* form of the verb.
- **Present perfect** tells about an action that occurred at an indefinite time in the past. **Past perfect** tells about an action that occurred before another event in the past. **Future perfect** adds the helping verb *will* and tells about an action that will start and finish in the future.
- **Progressive forms** use a form of *be* followed by a present participle, which is the *-ing* form of the verb.
- **Present progressive** tells about an action that is happening now. **Past progressive** tells about an action that took place while another action was occurring. **Future progressive** adds the helping verb *will* and tells about an action that will occur while another happens.

Write the tense of each verb phrase.

1. will be studying \_\_\_\_\_
2. am cooking \_\_\_\_\_
3. have talked \_\_\_\_\_
4. will have arrived \_\_\_\_\_
5. was talking \_\_\_\_\_
6. had remained \_\_\_\_\_
7. am sleeping \_\_\_\_\_
8. have started \_\_\_\_\_
9. will be leaving \_\_\_\_\_
10. was talking \_\_\_\_\_

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- Avoid shifting from one verb tense to another in the same sentence when the actions occur at the same time.
- When actions occur at different times, however, a shift makes sense.

**A. Read each pair of sentences. Put an X beside the sentence in which the verb tenses shift.**

1. Today, my family went to the store and shops for school supplies. \_\_\_\_\_  
Today, my family went to the store and shopped for school supplies. \_\_\_\_\_
2. We looked for the things we needed the most. \_\_\_\_\_  
We look for the things we needed the most. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I needed notebooks for English class and chose some red ones. \_\_\_\_\_  
I needed notebooks for English class and choose some red ones. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Read each sentence. Rewrite the sentence. Change the tense of the verb in parentheses ( ) so the sentence makes sense.**

4. Yesterday the weather was warm and sunny, but right now it (has looked) cold and rainy outside.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The temperature is dropping, and tomorrow we (had) ice everywhere.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. On winter afternoons, I pull on my skates and (had played) ice hockey with my friends.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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- A **main verb** shows the main action or state of being. A **helping verb** helps the main verb show tense. Helping verbs include forms of *be*, *do*, and *have*, as well as *will*, *can*, *may*, *should*, and *must*. A **verb phrase** consists of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.
- Main and helping verbs form different **verb tenses**. Avoid shifting verb tenses in a sentence unless the actions occur at different times.

**Proofread each sentence for mistakes. Rewrite the sentence correctly. Then underline any verb phrases.**

1. Juan is plan a surprise party for his brother  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. his brother turned ten tomorrow.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Juan has pick some fun games and activities?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. last week he invites the guests.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Today, Juan has prepare food for the party,  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The guests gathering early for the party  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Everyone hides and will shout, "Surprise!"  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Juan's brother liked parties, and he loved this one.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Rewrite each sentence, changing the underlined verb to the tense given in parentheses ( ).

1. Who knocks at my door? (present progressive)

2. Jody's train arrived before noon. (past perfect)

3. He memorizes the train schedule. (present perfect)

4. He waited for more than an hour. (future perfect)

5. My brother brings lunch. (future progressive)

6. They will finish the investigation by Friday. (future perfect)

7. All our friends gathered in the stadium. (past perfect)

8. Sam copied several pages of notes. (past progressive)

9. I write in my journal every night. (future progressive)

10. This restaurant closes at midnight. (present progressive)

