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Present, Past, and Future Tense Verbs

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The following information, as taken from Language LAB™ by JoAnn Wiechmann, M.A., CCC-SLP; Judy Rudebusch, Ed.D., CCC-SLP; and Nancy Kuhles, M.S., CCC-SLP, provides an overview of present, past, and future tense verbs.



Regular Present Tense Verbs

Definition

Regular present tense verbs describe a daily event or a repeated action. Regular singular nouns and the pronouns *he*, *she*, and *it* will add **-s** or **-es** to the verb. Plural nouns, plural pronouns, and the singular pronouns *"I"* and *"you"* will not add **-s** or **-es**.

Examples

- *She tells* the best stories.
- *The phone rings* every hour.
- *The drummer plays* loudly.
- *My grandparents tell* great stories.
- *The phones ring* every hour.
- *The drummers play* loudly.

Regular Past Tense Verbs

Definition

Regular past tense verbs describe an action that happened or was completed in the past. To form a simple **regular past tense verb**, add **-ed** to the regular verb. To form a regular past tense verb of verbs ending in a consonant and **-y**, change the **-y** to an **"i"** and add **-ed** (dry/dried). **Regular past tense verbs** are the same for singular and plural subjects.

Examples

Consonant ending

- laugh/laughed
- open/opened
- walk/walked

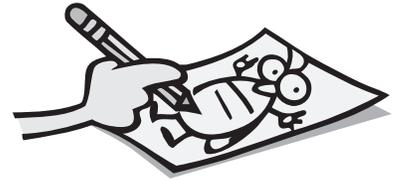
Consonant and **-y** ending

- copy/copied
- cry/cried
- pry/pried

Irregular Past Tense Verbs

Definition

An **irregular past tense verb** is a word that describes an action that happened in the past. **Irregular past tense verb** forms do not end in -ed. These verbs either keep the same spelling, change letters in the middle of a word, or change completely.



Examples

Verbs that do not change form when referring to a past action.

- Today I *cut*. Yesterday I *cut*. • Today the sun *set*. Yesterday the sun *set*.
- Today I *hit*. Yesterday I *hit*. • Today I *hurt*. Yesterday I *hurt*.

Verbs that change completely when referring to a past action.

- *do/did* • *hide/hid* • *tell/told* • *catch/caught*

Verbs that change letters in the middle of the word when referring to a past action.

- *come/came* • *blow/blew* • *draw/drew* • *drink/drank*

Future Tense Verbs

Definition

The **future tense helping verb "will" + an action verb** describes an action that may happen in the future and forms a simple future tense sentence.

Examples

- Charlie **will drive** to the store. • The turtle **will swim** in the river.
- They **will sing** the song. • The teacher **will give** us our books.

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