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Present, Past, and Future Tense Verbs

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.
- *My grandparents tell* great stories.
- The *phone rings* every hour.
- The *phones ring* every hour.
- The *drummer plays* loudly.
- 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



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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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