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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/copiedcry/criedpry/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/drewdrink/drank

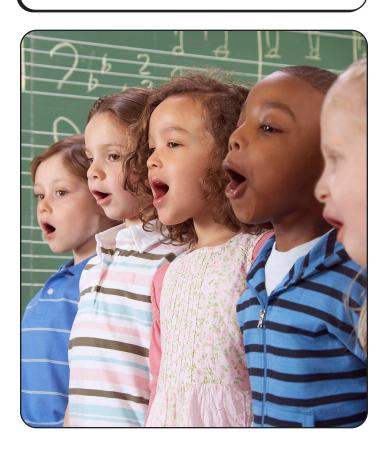
Future Tense Verbs

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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