

## Verb Tense Summary based on *Warriner's English Grammar and Composition*

Every form of the verb tells us something about the time of an action or statement. English has 6 tenses based upon the principal parts of a verb—the infinitive, present participle, past, and past participle. The names of the tenses do not explain their uses nor does conjugation alone show more than the forms taken by a verb in different tenses. The charts shown below explain the use of the tenses, the forms of the conjugation of a regular and irregular verb, and gives examples. Progressive forms of the verb are not a separate tense. They are made up of the various tenses of the verb *be* plus the present participle (the *-ing* form). The progressive form of a verb shows *continuing* action.

Present Infinitive: <i>to walk</i>		Perfect Infinitive: <i>to have walked</i>	
Infinitive	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
walk	walking	walked	walked

Present Tense*			
(occurring or taking place now, at the present time)			
(The patient <i>walks</i> with difficulty)			
Singular		Plural	
I	walk	we	walk
you	walk	you	walk
he, she, it, noun	walks	they	walk
Present Progressive: <i>I am walking</i> , etc.			
(The patient <i>is walking</i> with difficulty.)			

**Past Tense**

(occured in the past, did not continue into present)

(The patient *walked* with difficulty)

**Singular****Plural**

I	walked	we	walked
you	walked	you	walked
he, she, it, noun	walked	they	walked

Past Progressive: *I was walking*, etc.

(The patient *was walking* with difficulty.)

**Future Tense**

(*will* or *shall* + infinitive) (will occur in the future)

(The patient *will walk* with difficulty after knee surgery.)

**Singular****Plural**

I	shall walk	we	shall walk
you	shall walk	you	shall walk
he, she, it, noun	shall walk	they	shall walk

Future Progressive: *I will (shall) be walking*, etc.

(The patient *will be walking* poorly for some time.)

### Present Perfect Tense

(*have* or *has* + past participle) (has been completed at an indefinite time in the past)

(The patient *has walked* with difficulty since I have known him.)

Singular		Plural	
I	have walked	we	have walked
you	have walked	you	have walked
he, she, it, noun	has walked	they	have walked

Present Perfect Progressive: *I have been walking*, etc.

(The patient *has been walking* poorly since his stroke.)

### Past Perfect Tense

(*had* + past participle) (completed in the past and preceded some other past event.)

(The patient *had walked* with difficulty prior to his stroke.)

Singular		Plural	
I	had walked	we	had walked
you	had walked	you	had walked
he, she, it, noun	had walked	they	had walked

Past Perfect Progressive: *I had been seeing*, etc.

(The patient *had been walking* with difficulty for a long time.)

### Future Perfect Tense

(*will have* or *shall have* + past participle)

(will be completed in the future before some other action)

(The patient *will have walked* 3 miles when he gets to the mall.)

Singular		Plural	
I	shall have walked	we	shall have walked
you	shall have walked	you	will have walked
he, she, it, noun	will have walked	they	will have walked

*Note: The future perfect tense is rarely used.*

Future Perfect Progressive: *I will have been walking*, etc

\*The present tense has several idiomatic uses as follow:

- 1) Used with *do* or *did*, the emphatic form: The patient *does walk* with difficulty.
- 2) May be used to express a future time: The patient *starts* rehab tomorrow.
- 3) May be used to express customary or habitual action or state of being: The patient walks 3 miles every day.
- 4) May be used to express a general truth, something that is true at all times: The sun is at the center of the solar system.
- 5) May be used in the historical present to make past events more alive or vivid: The emergency room was "standing room only" when this patient strides in and demands to be seen immediately. The historical present is most often used in a literary sense and often serves more to separate events within stories than to bring stories to life.

**Irregular verbs:**

Note: The most irregular verb form in the English language is the verb "to be." Study these constructions to avoid misusing this confusing verb. A form of *be* is used with the present participle to form the progressive: *is eating, will be seeing*. (See the progressive examples for *walking* above.) A form of *be* is used with the past participle to form the passive: *was seen, had been examined*.)

<b>Present Infinitive: <i>to be</i></b>		<b>Perfect Infinitive: <i>to have been</i></b>	
<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>Present Participle</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>Past Participle</b>
be	being	was	been

<b>Present Tense*</b>			
<b>Singular</b>		<b>Plural</b>	
I	am	we	are
you	are	you	are
he, she, it, noun	is	they	are
Present Progressive: <i>I am being, we are being, etc.</i>			

<b>Past Tense*</b>			
<b>Singular</b>		<b>Plural</b>	
I	was	we	were
you	were	you	were
he, she, it, noun	was	they	were
Past Progressive: <i>I was being, you were being, etc.</i>			

**Future Tense**

(*shall be* or *will be* with all subjects)

I, we, you, he, she, it, noun, they *shall (will) be*

**Present Perfect**

(*have* or *has* + past participle)

I, we, you, they *have been*

he, she, it, noun *has been*

**Past Perfect**

(*had* + past participle)

I, we, you, they, he, she, it, noun *had been*

**Future Perfect**

(*will have* or *shall have* + past participle)

I, we, you, they, he, she, it, noun *shall (will) have been*

## Regular & Irregular Verb Conjugations

Verbs that do not use -ed to form the past tense are irregular verbs. Here are some often misused regular and irregular verbs in medical dictation. Go back to the conjugation of regular verbs and the irregular verb *to be* above. Example: I arise, I arose, I have arisen, I am arising; you arise, you arose, you have arisen, you are arising; etc. Using those patterns and this list, conjugate each of the verbs below with nouns and pronouns. *\*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., has Usage Notes on the verbs marked with an asterisk.*

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle	Present Participle
		(both require a helping verb)	
arise, arises	arose	arisen	arising
ask, asks	asked	asked	asking
awake, awakes	awaked (awoke)	awaked (awoken)	awaking
awaken, awakens	awakened	awakened	awakening
be* (to be), am, is, are	was, were	been	being
bear, bears	bore	borne (born)*	bearing
become, becomes	became	become	becoming
begin, begins	began	begun	beginning
bite, bites	bit	bitten	biting
break, breaks	broke	broken	breaking
bring, brings	brought	brought	bringing
burst, bursts	burst	burst	bursting
can*	could		
catch, catches	caught	caught	catching

choose, chooses	chose	chosen	choosing
come, comes	came	come	coming
dive, dives	dived (dove)*	dived	diving
do, does	did	done	doing
draw, draws	drew	drawn	drawing
drink, drinks	drank	drunk*	drinking
drive, drives	drove	driven	driving
drown, drowns	drowned	drowned	drowning
eat, eats	ate	eaten	eating
fall, falls	fell	fallen	falling
fling, flings	flung	flung	flinging
forget, forgets	forgot	forgot (forgotten)	forgetting
freeze, freezes	froze	frozen	freezing
has, have	had*	had	having
get, gets	got	got, gotten	getting
give, gives	gave	given	giving
go, goes	went	gone	going
grow, grows	grew	grown	growing
hang, hangs	hung	hung	hanging
know, knows	knew	known	knowing
lay*, lays (takes object)	laid	laid	laying
lead, leads	led	led	leading
leave*, leaves	left	left	leaving



lie, lies (no object)	lay*	lain	lying
plead, pleads*	pleaded, pled	pleaded, pled	pleading
raise, raises (takes object)	raised	raised	raising
ride, rides	rode	ridden	riding
ring, rings	rang	rung	ringing
rise, rises (no object)	rose	risen	rising
run, runs	ran	run	running
see, sees	saw	seen	seeing
set*, sets (takes object)	set	set	setting
shall*	should		
shake, shakes	shook	shaken	shaking
shrink, shrinks	shrank (shrunk)	shrunk (shrunken)	shrinking
sink, sinks	sank (sunk)	sunk	sinking
sit, sits (no object)	sat	sat	sitting
speak, speaks	spoke	spoken	speaking
steal, steals	stole	stolen	stealing
sting, stings	stung	stung	stinging
swim, swims	swam	swum	swimming
take, takes	took	taken	taking
tear, tears	tore	torn	tearing
wake*, wakes	woke (waked)	waked (woken)	waking
waken, wakens	wakened	wakened	wakening
will	would		

## Commonly Used Auxiliary verbs

Auxiliary, or helping, verbs combine with other verbs to indicate voice, mood, and tense. Sometimes other words may intervene between an auxiliary and the main verb. A word that frequently comes between the auxiliary and the main verb is not. It often appears as a contraction attached to the auxiliary verb. Except for *cannot*, not is written as a separate word when not used as a contraction.

**Examples:** Has Mary washed the dishes yet?

No, Mary has not washed the dishes yet.

### These are auxiliary (helping) verbs:

have, has, had

be, am, are, is, was, were, been

will, shall, can, would, should, could

may, might, must

do, does, did

ought to, has to, have to, used to

Examples: I am concerned about Mary's grades.

The baby will not eat solid food.

He ought to lose weight.

She has to drink eight glasses of water a day.

Georgia used to require fingerprinting for a driver's license.

Sometimes get, got, keep, and kept act as helping verbs.

Example: He got robbed; he kept running.