

The 12 Verb Tenses

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	<p>I <i>ate</i> pizza yesterday.</p> <p>S + V₂ + O</p>	<p>I <i>eat</i> pizza everyday.</p> <p>S + V₁ + O</p>	<p>I <i>will eat</i> pizza tomorrow.</p> <p>S + 'will' + V + O</p>
Continuous	<p>I <i>was eating</i> pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'was/were' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>am eating</i> pizza right now.</p> <p>S + 'am/is/are' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>will be eating</i> pizza when you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will be' + (V+ing) + O</p>
Perfect	<p>I <i>had eaten</i> all of the pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'had' + V₃ + O</p>	<p>I <i>have eaten</i> all of the pizza.</p> <p>S + 'have/has' + V₃ + O</p>	<p>I <i>will have eaten</i> all of the pizza by the time you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will have' + V₃ + O</p>
Perfect Continuous	<p>I <i>had been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'had been' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>have been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours.</p> <p>S + 'have/has been' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>will have been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours when you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will have been' + (V+ing) + O</p>

Legend: S = Subject O = Object V = Verb (V₁ = present / V₂ = past / V₃ = past participle)

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	<p>I <i>ate</i> pizza yesterday.</p> <p>To indicate a past habit – or an action already completed.</p> <p>Can be used with or without adverbs of time.</p>	<p>I <i>eat</i> pizza everyday.</p> <p>To express habits or general truth.</p> <p>To indicate a future event on a designated date as part of a plan or arrangement.</p> <p>With 'mental action' verbs: <i>like, love, want, need, believe, etc.</i></p>	<p>I <i>will eat</i> pizza tomorrow.</p> <p>To indicate an action, condition, or circumstance which hasn't taken place yet.</p>
Continuous	<p>I <i>was eating</i> pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>To indicate uncompleted action of the past (with or without time reference)</p> <p>To indicate persistent habits of the past (with <i>always, continuously, forever, etc.</i>)</p>	<p>I <i>am eating</i> pizza right now.</p> <p>To indicate action going on at the time of speaking.</p> <p>To indicate temporary action which may not be happening at the time of speaking.</p> <p>With a habitual action verb, especially to indicate a stubborn habit.</p>	<p>I <i>will be eating</i> pizza when you arrive.</p> <p>To indicate what will be going on at some time in the future.</p> <p>To indicate planned future events.</p>
Perfect	<p>I <i>had eaten</i> all of the pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>To indicate a completed action of the past that happened before another event took place.</p>	<p>I <i>have eaten</i> all of the pizza.</p> <p>To indicate past action which is not defined by a time of occurrence.</p> <p>To indicate an action which started in the past and has continued up until now.</p>	<p>I <i>will have eaten</i> all of the pizza by the time you arrive.</p> <p>To indicate an action that will be complete before another event takes place.</p>
Perfect Continuous	<p>I <i>had been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours when you arrived.</p> <p>To indicate an action in the past that began before a certain point in the past and continued up until that time.</p>	<p>I <i>have been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours.</p> <p>To indicate an action which started at some point in the past and may or may not be complete.</p>	<p>I <i>will have been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours when you arrive.</p> <p>To indicate an action that will have happened for some time and will not be complete yet at a certain point in the future.</p>

Examples of the 12 verb tenses

1. Simple Present Tense

I eat a pineapple.

He eats a pineapple.

2. Simple Past Tense

I ate a pineapple.

He ate a pineapple.

3. Simple Future Tense

I shall eat a pineapple.

He will eat a pineapple.

4. Present Continuous Tense

I am eating a pineapple.

We are eating pineapple.

He was eating a pineapple.

5. Past Continuous Tense

I was eating a pineapple.

We were eating pineapple.

He was eating a pineapple.

6. Future Continuous Tense

I shall be eating a pineapple.

He will be eating a pineapple.

7. Present perfect tense

I have eaten a pineapple.

He has eaten a pineapple.

8. Past perfect tense

I had eaten a pineapple.

He had eaten a pineapple.

9. Future perfect tense

I shall have eaten a pineapple.

He will have eaten a pineapple.

10. Present Perfect Continuous Tense

I have been eating a pineapple.

11. Past Perfect Continuous Tense

I had been eating a pineapple.

12. Future Perfect Continuous Tense

I shall have been eating a pineapple.