

Perfect Verb Tenses

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verb: a word that describes an action or state of being

We use different forms of a verb to show when an action happened. This is called *verb* tense. Verb tense shows if an action happened in the past, in the present, or will happen in the future. There are several verb tenses: the simple verb tenses, the progressive verb tenses, and the perfect verb tenses.

The perfect verb tenses are used to show action already completed and are formed by adding the auxiliary form of *have* to the past participle of the verb.

Present Perfect Tense: a form of a verb that shows something began in the past and continues into the present but just ended.

The present perfect tense uses the auxiliary “has” or “have.”

Simple Past Tense	Present Perfect Tense
I walked one mile.	I have walked one mile.
He told them we are his cousins.	“He has told them we are his cousins.” (p. 102, <i>Esperanza Rising</i>)
She did her homework.	

Past Perfect Tense: a form of a verb that shows something began, continued, and was completed in the past, before another action.

The present perfect tense uses the auxiliary “had.”

Simple Past Tense	Past Perfect Tense
I walked.	I had walked.
She saw people sweep.	“She had seen people sweep many times.” (p. 115–116, <i>Esperanza Rising</i>)
She did her homework.	

Future Perfect Tense: a form of a verb that shows an action that will begin, continue for a while, and then be completed at a specified time in the future.

The present perfect tense uses the auxiliary “will have.”

Simple Future Tense	Future Perfect Tense
Saturday I will walk.	By Saturday morning, I will have walked.
She will do her homework later.	