SIMPLE & PERFECT TENSES

**What is the infinitive form?**

* The **infinitive form** is the basic form of the verb. It’s how it will appear in a dictionary. It does not tell you when the action/state of being is taking place.

**What is a verb tense?**

* A **verb tense** tell you **when** the verb is taking place.

**How many are there?**

* In English, there are 3 main tenses:

1. Present,
2. Past,
3. Future.

As we talked about in class, however, those 3 are not enough to cover all the things we want to say. So, there are different “types” of present, past, and future—which we also call tenses. They are illustrated in the chart below, along with an example.

**How many are there?**

1. Simple,
2. Continuous,
3. Perfect, and
4. Perfect continuous.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **INFINITIVE**  **To study** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **PRESENT** | | | | **PAST** | | | | **FUTURE** | | | |
| **Simple present** | **Present continuous** | **Present perfect** | **Present perfect continuous** | **Simple past** | **Past continuous** | **Past perfect** | **Past perfect continuous** | **Simple future** | **Future continuous** | **Future perfect** | **Future perfect continuous** |
| **I study** | **I am studying** | **I have studied** | **I have been studying** | **I studied** | **I was studying** | **I had studied** | **I had been studying** | **I will study** | **I will be studying** | **I will have studied** | **I will have been studying** |

**ACTIVITY**

*Directions: Complete the following practice activities on your own paper.*

**Practice A:**

*Directions: Identify the tense of each underlined verb.*

1. Jim had cleaned his watch before he left.
2. Della will have combed her hair over a thousand times before she next has it cut.
3. Della will cook chops for dinner.
4. Della selected a beautiful watch fob for Jim.

**Practice B:**

*Directions: Revise each sentence, changing the verb tense to the one identified in parentheses.*

1. O. Henry creates surprise endings. (past)
2. She has looked at the combs in the window. (future)
3. Jim will have purchased Della’s gift by now. (past perfect)
4. Her hair will glow brighter than jewels. (present)

**Practice C**

*Directions: Write four different sentences using four different verb tenses.*