

Name _____

Date _____

A Past Perfect Thing

Reading and Discussion

Verbs are the action words in a sentence. Verbs show **action** or state of **being**. Each verb has three main parts. They are:

1. **present,**
2. **past**
3. **past participle.**

Although it might sound confusing, it is really very simple.

- I laugh. **Laugh** is the present form of the verb **to laugh**.
- I laughed. **Laughed** is the past form of the verb **to laugh**.

Next are the **past participles**. So what are they? **Participles** help show tense or act as adjectives. Let's concentrate on **participles** to help show tense for now.

The **past participle** is used with the helping verbs **have**, **has** or **had** to form three **perfect tenses**. More threes? Yes, but these are easy to remember too. All you need to do is remember the verb tenses **present**, **past** and **future**. Now put the word **perfect** behind them. The perfect tenses are:

- **present perfect tense:** I *have laughed* all morning. This shows the action started in the past but is still going on, or has recently been completed.
- **past perfect tense:** I *had laughed* all morning. This shows the action started in the past and was finished in the past. It's over. It's past.
- **future perfect tense:** By noon I *will have laughed* all morning. This shows the action will start soon and continue into the future. It will stop at a specific time.

All these verb words might seem like a lot to remember. You can make a little chart like this to help yourself out:

Verbs show:

1. Action
2. State of being

Verb tenses show **when** the action happens:

1. Present – Now
2. Past – a few seconds ago or a million years ago
3. Future – a few seconds from now or a hundred years from now.

Verbs have three main parts:

1. Present
2. Past
3. Past participle

Past Participles are used to create three tenses:

1. Present Perfect
2. Past Perfect
3. Future Perfect

To make verb tenses change into past participles, you might use one of these helping verbs:

1. Have
2. Has
3. Had

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Activities

Activity A: What are the three perfect tenses? Write them on the lines below.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Activity B: Change the underlined verbs in the sentences below into past perfect tense. Write the correct sentence on the line below.

Remember to use one of the helping verbs **have**, **has**, or **had**. Remember the action has happened in the past and is now over.

1. Becky skates with her red ice skates.

2. We grilled hot dogs and hamburgers on the patio.

3. Jerome planted a garden on Grandpa's farm.

4. My class learned all about the solar system.

5. Mom cooked a yummy lasagna.

6. Bob and Tom biked up to the Seven Caves.

7. I sail my boats on that lake in the spring.

8. Janet cleans up her room every morning.

9. Mark nails a board for his new tree house.

10. The whole school shouts at recess.

Answer Key

Activity A

1. Present Perfect
2. Past Perfect
3. Future Perfect

Activity B

1. Becky had skated with her red ice skates.
2. We had grilled hot dogs and hamburgers on the patio.
3. Jerome had planted a garden on Grandpa's farm.
4. My class had learned all about the solar system.
5. Mom had cooked a yummy lasagna.
6. Bob and Tom had biked up to Seven Caves.
7. I had sailed my boats on that lake in the spring.
8. Janet had cleaned up her room every morning.
9. Mark had nailed a board for his new tree house.
10. The whole school had shouted at recess.