

Name _____

Date _____

Say When Using Past, Present and Future Tense Verbs

Reading and Discussion

Verbs are action words. They tell us about an **action** or a **state of being**.
Tense tells us when the action takes place.

There are three **verb tenses** that we can use:

1. **Present tense verbs** tell us what is happening **now**.

- Janet chops the celery for salad.

Chops tells us the action is happening now.

2. **Past tense verbs** tell us what happened in the **past**. This could be anytime from five seconds ago to a thousand years ago.

- Janet chopped the celery for salad.

Chopped tells us the action happened in the past.

3. **Future tense verbs** are actions that will happen in the **future**.

- Janet will chop the celery for salad later.

Will chop tells us the action will happen in the future. Most of the time when you use future tense, you use the helping verb **will** in front of the verb.

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Activities

Activity A: Do you think you can tell if a verb is **present**, **past** or **future tense**? Read the sentences below. Look at the underlined verb. If it is **present tense** write **Now** on the blank line. If it is **past tense** write **Past** on the blank line. If it is **future tense** write **Future** on the blank line.

1. Amy will ride to the store with Grandpa. _____
2. My class walked to the park last Friday. _____
3. Jacob ainted a picture on the blackboard. _____
4. We will sail on the *Captain's Seagull*. _____
5. Martha sings to her doll. _____
6. My puppy barks at the mailman. _____

Activity B: Write a **present tense verb** in each of the sentences below.

1. Janet _____ to the store.
2. My kitten _____ with a catnip mouse.
3. The class _____ our desks.
4. My aunt _____ at Pizza Palace.

Activity C: Write a **past tense verb** in the sentences below.

1. Janet _____ to the store.
2. My kitten _____ with a catnip mouse.
3. The class _____ our desks.
4. My aunt _____ at Pizza Palace.

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Activity D: Write a **future tense verb** in the sentences below.

1. Janet _____ to the store.
2. My kitten _____ with a catnip mouse.
3. The class _____ our desks.
4. My aunt _____ at Pizza Palace.

Activity E: What is the **helping verb** you use with future tense verbs?
Write it on the line below.

Activity F: What is the **word ending** that is often used on past tense verbs?
Write it on the line below.

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Answer Key

Activity A

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Amy <u>will ride</u> to the store with Grandpa. | <u>Future</u> |
| 2. My class <u>walked</u> to the park last Friday. | <u>Past</u> |
| 3. Jacob <u>ainted</u> a picture on the blackboard. | <u>Past</u> |
| 4. We <u>will sail</u> on the <i>Captain's Seagull</i> . | <u>Future</u> |
| 5. Martha <u>sings</u> to her doll. | <u>Present</u> |
| 6. My puppy <u>barks</u> at the mailman. | <u>Present</u> |

Activity B

Answers may vary. For example

1. Janet walks to the store.
2. My kitten plays with a catnip mouse.
3. The class opens our desks.
4. My aunt works at Pizza Palace.

Activity C

Answers may vary. For example

1. Janet walked to the store.
2. My kitten played with a catnip mouse.
3. The class opened our desks.
4. My aunt worked at Pizza Palace.

Activity D

Answers may vary. For example

1. Janet will walk to the store.
2. My kitten will play with a catnip mouse.
3. The class will open our desks.
4. My aunt will work at Pizza Palace.

Activity E: will

Activity F: ed