

Past, Present, and Future Tenses

The **tense** of a verb shows when something happens. Verbs in the **present tense** show action that happens now. Most present tense singular verbs end with *-s*. Most present tense plural verbs do not end with *-s*.

Callie keeps her makeup in little jars. They keep the makeup fresh.

Verbs in the **past tense** show action that has already happened. Most verbs in the past tense end in *-ed*.

She brushed on two coats of mascara.

Verbs in the **future tense** show action that will happen. Add *will* (or *shall*) to most verbs to show the future tense.

Heat will make mascara run.

- Some regular verbs change spelling when *-ed* is added. For verbs ending in *e*, drop the *e* and add *-ed*: *loved*, *hoped*. For verbs ending in a consonant and *y*, change the *y* to *i*, and add *-ed*: *cried*, *married*.
- For most one-syllable verbs that end in one vowel followed by one consonant, double the consonant and add *-ed*: *hopped*, *grabbed*.
- Irregular verbs change spelling to form the past tense: *ate/were*, *break/broke*, *bring/brought*, *build/built*, *buy/bought*, *do/did*, *find/found*, *go/went*, *have/had*, *is/was*, *keep/kept*, *make/made*, *ring/rang*, *sit/sat*, *see/saw*, *take/took*, *teach/taught*, *tell/told*, *wear/wore*, *write/wrote*.

Directions Identify the tense of each underlined verb. Write present, past, or future.

1. Hieroglyphics tell us about ancient Egypt.

2. Archaeologists will search for artifacts.

3. Ramses II is a well-known pharaoh.

4. Pharaohs built huge statues.

5. Egypt was a major world power in 1500 B.C.

Directions Write the correct present, past, and future tense of each verb.

Verb	Present	Past	Future
1. find	I _____	I _____	I _____
2. sit	She _____	She _____	She _____
3. carry	We _____	We _____	We _____