

# The 12 Verb Tenses - Usage

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	<p><b>I ate</b> pizza yesterday.</p> <p>To indicate a past habit – or an action already completed.</p> <p>Can be used with or without adverbs of time.</p>	<p><b>I eat</b> pizza everyday.</p> <p>To express habits or general truth.</p> <p>To indicate a future event on a designated date as part of a plan or arrangement.</p> <p>With 'mental action' verbs: <i>like, love, want, need, believe, etc.</i></p>	<p><b>I will eat</b> pizza tomorrow.</p> <p>To indicate an action, condition, or circumstance which hasn't taken place yet.</p>
Continuous	<p><b>I was eating</b> pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>To indicate uncompleted action of the past (with or without time reference)</p> <p>To indicate persistent habits of the past (with <i>always, continuously, forever, etc.</i>)</p>	<p><b>I am eating</b> pizza right now.</p> <p>To indicate action going on at the time of speaking.</p> <p>To indicate temporary action which may not be happening at the time of speaking.</p> <p>With a habitual action verb, especially to indicate a stubborn habit.</p>	<p><b>I will be eating</b> pizza when you arrive.</p> <p>To indicate what will be going on at some time in the future.</p> <p>To indicate planned future events.</p>
Perfect	<p><b>I had eaten</b> all of the pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>To indicate a completed action of the past that happened before another event took place.</p>	<p><b>I have eaten</b> all of the pizza.</p> <p>To indicate past action which is not defined by a time of occurrence.</p> <p>To indicate an action which started in the past and has continued up until now.</p>	<p><b>I will have eaten</b> all of the pizza by the time you arrive.</p> <p>To indicate an action that will be complete before another event takes place.</p>
Perfect Continuous	<p><b>I had been eating</b> pizza for 2 hours when you arrived.</p> <p>To indicate an action in the past that began before a certain point in the past and continued up until that time.</p>	<p><b>I have been eating</b> pizza for 2 hours.</p> <p>To indicate an action which started at some point in the past and may or may not be complete.</p>	<p><b>I will have been eating</b> pizza for 2 hours when you arrive.</p> <p>To indicate an action that will have happened for some time and will not be complete yet at a certain point in the future.</p>