## The 12 Verb Tenses - Usage

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