

Verbs

A sentence has two parts, the subject and the predicate. The subject (a noun or pronoun) is the person/thing that performs the action of the sentence. Everything else is the predicate of the sentence. Notice that all the descriptions of the subject are considered part of the subject, too.

Subject

Jacob and Joseph

The fluffy, black cat owned by my friend

(You)

I

Many of the students in the class

Predicate

are going to the movies tonight.

prowls the neighborhood.

Go to bed!

always cook falafels for Easter.

study hard.

Verbs are the part of speech that show action, for example *dig*, *read*, or *play*. We find verbs in the predicate part of the sentence.

English has many labels for verbs, depending on what kind of action they perform or how they are formed.

The **most basic form of a verb** in English is **the infinitive form**, meaning, it has not changed tense or person in any way.

The infinitive form always has “to” in front of it:

to play

to jump

to write

to eat

Regular verbs are those whose simple past and past participle are formed by adding the suffix “-ed” (for example, “walk” becomes “walked”).

infinitive

to play

to jump

simple past

played (regular verbs always add “ed” to the simple past tense)

jumped

Some verbs *mostly* follow the regular form. They add “ed” but also have a slight change. These are verbs that have two or more syllables and end in “y” like “to study.”

infinitive

to study

ally (to join with)

simple past

studied

allied

Irregular verbs are those that do not follow the normal pattern of adding an “ed” at the end for the simple past and past participle. (for example, “go” becomes “went”). These verbs can change many different ways and must be memorized. See the list of irregular verbs.

infinitive

simple past

to write
to eat

wrote (see how the verb changed form instead of adding “ed”?)
ate

In English we conjugate verbs. That means we change the verb depending on the subject and tense. For example, the verb “play” (I/you/they play) adds an S in the third person singular subject to become “plays” (she/he/it plays) This is called **subject-verb agreement**.

First person singular (I)	play	write	eat
Second person singular (you)	play	write	eat
Third person singular (he/she/it)	plays	writes	eats
First person plural (we)	play	write	eat
Second person plural (you/you all/y’all)	play	write	eat
Third person plural (they)	play	write	eat

Conjugation of the regular verb *to live* (based on tense):

Simple Present	Simple Past	Simple Future
live/lives	lived	will live
Present Continuous	Past Continuous	Future Continuous
am/are/is living	was/were living	will be living
Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Future Perfect
have/has lived	had lived	will have lived
Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	Future Perfect Continuous
have/has been living	had been living	will have been living

Conjugation of the “mostly” regular verb *to study* (based on tense):

Simple Present	Simple Past	Simple Future
study/studies	studied	will study
Present Continuous	Past Continuous	Future Continuous
am/are/is studying	was/were studying	will be studying
Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Future Perfect
have/has studied	had studied	will have lived
Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	Future Perfect Continuous

have/has been studying	had been studying	will have been studying
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Conjugation of the irregular verb ***to eat*** (based on tense):

Simple Present	Simple Past	Simple Future
eat/eats	ate	will eat
Present Continuous	Past Continuous	Future Continuous
am/are/is eating	was eating	will be eating
Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Future Perfect
have/has eaten	had eaten	will have eaten
Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous	Future Perfect Continuous
have/has been eating	had been eating	will have been eating