12 Tenses of English Language
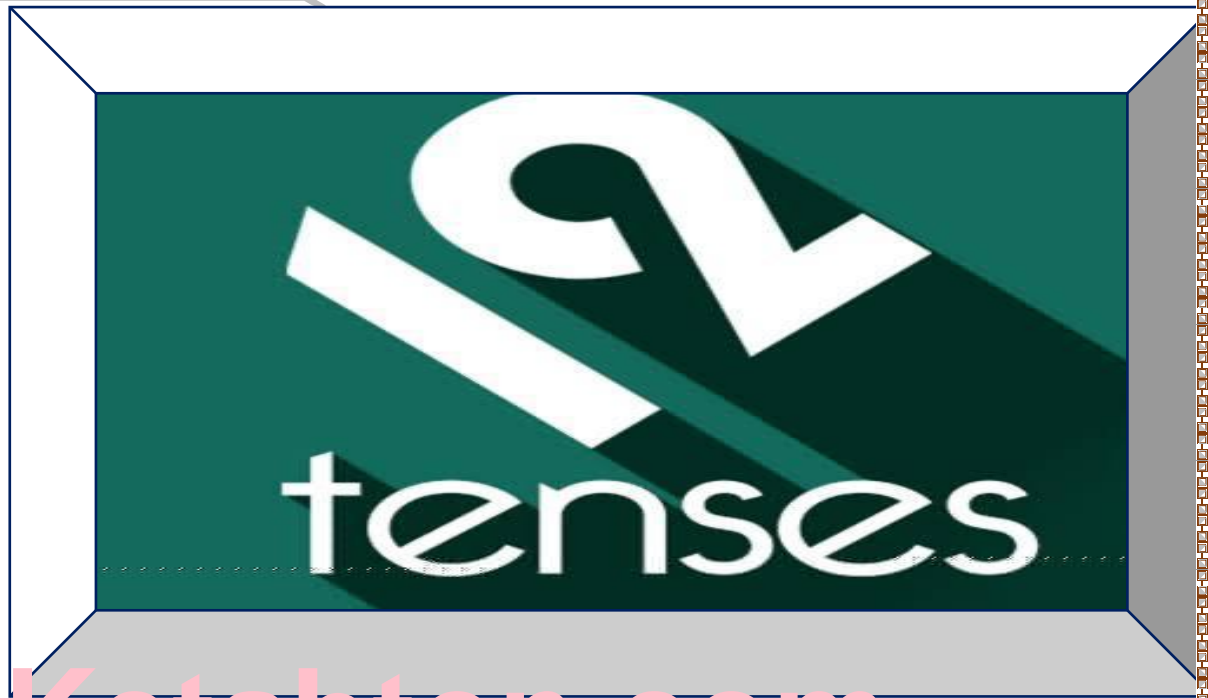
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12 Tenses of English Language

What is Tense ?

1. **Tense is taken from a Latin word Tempus which means Time and Era.**
2. **Tense shows the form of the verb**
3. **Tense shows what happened in the past what happens in the present and What will happen in the future.**

e.g   I **came** to class yesterday.   (Past)

e.g   I **come** to class.   (Present)

e.g   I **will come** to class.   (Future)

Period of Tenses

    PAST   **PRESENT**   **FUTURE**

Past

1. **Simple past tense**
2. **Past continuous tense**
3. **Past perfect tense**
4. **Past perfect continuous tense**

Present

1. **Simple present tense**
2. **Present continuous tense**
3. **Present perfect tense**
4. **Present perfect continuous tense**

Future

1. **Simple future tense**
2. **Future continuous tense**
3. **Future perfect tense**
4. **Future perfect continuous tense**

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Simple Present Tense: **it is used to show an action which happens in the present time.**

Structure : **(1)** Sub + verb + s/es/ies + comp.   **(positive)**

      e.g: He studies English.

      e.g: I speak Pashto.

       (2) Sub + do/does + not + verb + comp.   **(negative)**

      e.g: He does not study English.

      e.g: I do not speak Pashto.

      (3) Do/does + sub + 1st-verb + comp?   **(interrogative)**

      e.g: Does he study English?

      e.g: Do I speak Pashto?

      (4) Do/does + sub + not |+ 1st-verb |+ comp?   **(negative interrogative)**

      e.g: Does he not study English?

      e.g: Do I not speak Pashto?

Note: **Negative interrogative structure is used for confirmation.**

Note : **with (he, she, it) we use (Does)**

And with (I , we , you ,they) we use   (Do)

Rules of adding (s/ es / ies)

Those verbs which end with (s,ss,ch,sh,z,x,o) so we add (ES) at the end of the verb.

e.g : watch = watches:

e.g : wash = washes

e.g : go = goes

e.g : cross = crosses

etc………………..

Those verbs which end with (Y) but before (Y) we have consonant so remove (Y) and add

(IES) at the end of the verb.

e.g : fly = flies

e.g : study = studies

e.g : carry = carries

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Those verbs which end with (Y) but before (Y) we have vowel so only add (S) at the end of the verb.

e.g : play = plays

e.g : pray = prays

Most verbs take only (S) at the end.

e.g : make = makes

e.g : talk = talks

e.g : walk = walks

Usages of Simple Present Tense

1) Simple present tense shows habitual actions.

e.g : Alia lies a lot.

2) Simple present tense shows daily actions.

e.g : I teach English every day.

3) Simple present tense shows facts.

we have two kinds of facts (General facts) and (Universal facts)

e.g : Allah is one   (Universal fact)

e.g : Ali is a child   (General fact)

4) Simple present tense shows regular actions.

e.g : it rains in spring.

5) Stative verbs are used in simple present tense.

Here are some stative verbs,

Love, need, want, forget , imagine , know , mean , notice , recognize , remember.

e.g : I love you.

e.g : She needs a book.

6) Simple present tense is used in short stories.

e.g : Ali has three sons , they work hard.

7) Simple present tense shows timetabled future actions.

e.g : The bus arrives at 3:00 o clock tomorrow.

8) Simple present tense is used in headlines of news to give the meaning past.

e.g : Abdullah meets Ashraf Ghani.

9) Simple present tense is used in sport commentaries.

e.g : Here comes Rashid Khan. He hits the ball for a massive six.

Present Continuous Tense

Present continuous tense it shows an actions which is in progress right now.

Structure : Sub + is/am/are + verb-ing + comp.   (positive)

    e.g : I am writing a new book.

    e.g : we are playing volleyball.

    Sub + is/am/are + not + verb-ing + comp.   (negative)

    e.g : I am not writing a new book.

    e.g : we are not playing volleyball.

    Is/am/are + sub + verb-ing + comp?   (interrogative)

    e.g : Am I writing a new book ?

    e.g : Are we playing volleyball ?

    Is/am/are + sub + not + verb-ing + comp?   (negative interrogative)

    e.g : Am I not writing a new book ?

    e.g : Are we not playing volleyball ?

Note :

With (I) we use (AM)

With (he , she , it) we use (IS)

With (we, you , they) we use (ARE)

Usages of Present Continuous Tense

1) Present continuous tense shows an action which happening around now.

e.g : I am teaching now.

e.g They are walking in the park.

2) Present continuous tense shows a temporary action.

e.g : I usually drink tea , but now I am drinking coffee.

e.g : He plays cricket ,but now he is playing football.

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3) Present continuous tense is used with words (Always) and (Never) to show an action that usually annoys the speaker.

e.g : He is always knocking the door.

e.g : Hashmat is always coming late.

4) Present continuous tense show planned near future actions.

e.g : They are meeting us later.

e.g : Ali is coming next Friday.

5) Verbs that are not normally used in the continuous form.

Senses/Perception

1 (feel   2 (hear   3 (see   4 (smell   5 (taste

Opinion

assume , believe , consider , doubt , suppose

Mental States

forget , imagine , know , mean , notice , recognize , remember , understand

Emotions/Desires

envy , fear , dislike , hate , hope ,like , love , mind , prefer , regret , want , wish

Measurement

Contain , cost , hold , measure , weigh

Others

Look , seem , be (in most cases) have (when it means possess)

Note :

Perception verbs (feel , hear , see , smell , taste) are often used with (Can) .

e.g : I can see…………………………..

These verbs may be used in the continuous form but with a different meaning.

e.g : I can see Ali in the garden.   (perception)

e.g : I am seeing Ali later   (we are planning to meet)

e.g : this coat feels nice and warm   (your perception of the coat's qualities)

e.g : Ahmad's feeling much better now   (his health is improving)

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Present Perfect Tense

Present perfect tense : it shows an action which happened at unspecific time in the past.

Structure : *Sub + has/have + 3rd-verb + comp* (positive)

e.g : Ziaulhaq has worked in many different places.

e.g : I have played football with my friends.

Sub + has/have + not + 3rd-verb + comp (negative)

e.g : Ziaulhaq has not worked in many different places.

e.g : I have not played football with my friends.

Has/have + sub + 3rd-verb + comp ? (interrogative)

e.g : Has Ziaulhaq worked in many different places ?

e.g : Have I played football with my friends ?

Has/have + sub + not + 3rd-verb + comp ? (negative interrogative)

e.g : Has Ziaulhaq not worked in many different places ?

e.g : Have I not played football with my friends ?

Usages of Present Perfect Tense

Present perfect tense shows an action that happened many times and has the possibility to happens in the present/future.

e.g : I have read this book many times.

(Not habitual but happened many times in the past)

Present perfect tense shows an action which happened in the past comes to the present may or may not go to the future.

e.g : He has lived in this house for 15 years   (still going on)

(just , already , yet , just now , ever , lately , recently……………….. etc : we use in present perfect tense)

Note : (Already) comes between have/has and the 3rd-verb   and (yet) appears with a negative form at the end of the sentence.

e.g : Ali has already reached there.

e.g : Ali has not reached yet.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Present perfect continuous tense shows an action which happened in the past comes to the present may or may go to the future.

Structure : Sub + has/have + been + verb-ing + comp   (positive)

e.g : I have been sleeping since 10:00 o clock .

e.g : We have been living together for four years .

Sub + has/have + not + been + verb-ing + comp.   (negative)

e.g : I have not been sleeping since 10:00 o clock .

e.g : We have not been living together for four years .

Has/have + sub + been + verb-ing + comp ?   (interrogative)

e.g : Have I been sleeping since 10:00 o clock ?

e.g : Have we been living together for four years ?

Has/have + sub + not + been + verb-ing + comp ?   (negative interrogative)

e.g : Have I not been sleeping since 10:00 o clock ?

e.g : Have we not been living together for four years ?

Note : with { he , she , it } we use   { Has }

And with { I , we, you , they } we use   { Have }

Usages of present perfect continuous tense

Present perfect continuous tense can be used without (since) and (for) to show an action which completed recently .

e.g : You have been crying.

e.g : it has been raining.

Question : What is difference between present perfect tense and present perfect continuous tense ?]

Answer : Present perfect tense show an action with (pauses) and present perfect continuous tense shows an action without (pauses)

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e.g : It has rained since morning.   (Present perfect tense) (with pauses)

e.g : It has been raining since morning. (Present perfect continuous tense) (without pauses)

Simple Past Tense

Simple past tense shows an action which happened at specific time in the past.

    Structure : Sub + 2nd-verv + comp.   (positive)

e.g I taught you English yesterday.

e.g : You came to class late last week

    Sub + did + not + 1st-verb + comp.   (negative)

e.g : I did not teach you English yesterday.

e.g : You did not come to class late last week.

    Did + sub + 1st-verb + comp?   (interrogative)

e.g : Did I teach you English yesterday?

e.g : Did you come to class late last week?

    Did + sub + not + 1st-verb + comp?   (negative interrogative)

e.g : Did I not teach you English yesterday?

e.g : Did you not come to class late last week?

NOTE : For the negative and interrogative form of all verbs in (simple past tense) always use the auxiliary (did)

Usages of Simple Past Tense

1) Simple past tense can be used without time expression when the listener and speaker both know the time of the action

e.g : Afghanistan won the match.

e.g : Ashraf left the country.

2) Simple past tense a series of completed actions.

e.g : Yesterday I got up early , took ablution , offered my prayer and then I had breakfast.

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3) Simple past tense shows past habits of someone.

e.g : my father **would** *drive the car.*

e.g : she usually **came** *late to the class.*

4) when , before , and after can be used in simple past tense.

e.g : **when** *you* **called** *me , I* **answered** *your call*

e.g : **before** *she* **went** *to office , I* **met** *her*

5) for + time expression : shows the duration of an action in the past.

e.g : I **lived** *in London* **for** *10 years.*

e.g : He **taught** *Pashto* **for** *5 years.*

5) we use (was/were) in simple past tense for showing state.

e.g : she **was** *at home last night.*

e.g : we **were** *injured a month ago.*

Question : How to choose between (simple past tense) and (present perfect tense) ?

Answer : Always use the present perfect tense when the time is not important , or not specified

Or

Always use the simple past tense when the details about the time or place are specified or asked for.

e.g : I have lived in Kabul   (Present Perfect Tense)

e.g : Ali has bought an expensive car   (Present Perfect Tense)

e.g : I lived in Kabul in 2000   (Simple Past Tense)

Ali bought an expensive car last week.   (Simple Past Tense)

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How to add (ed) to a verb?

1) we add (ed) after the verb.

Watch = watched

Turn = turned

Want = wanted

2) the verbs end in (e) then we just need to add (d) at the end.

Type = typed

Smile = smiled

Agree = agreed

3) verbs with one syllable , ending with one consonant , before the consonant is one vowel we will double the last consonant and add (ed).

Stop = **stopped**

Tap = **tapped**

4) verbs ending in (y)

If before (y) in one vowel (a, e, I, o, u) we add (ed).

Play = **played**

Stay = **stayed**

If before (y) is a consonant, we change (y) to (I + ed)

Study = **studied**

Cry = **cried**

5) irregular verbs do not take (ed).

There are some verbs that when we used in simple past tense they do not follow the rules of adding (ed)

These verbs need to be memorized, there is no conversion rule.

Here are some irregular verbs.

Go = **went**   **Smell** = **smelt**

Drive = **drove**   **See** = **saw**

Past Continuous Tense

Past continuous tense shows an action which was in progress at particular time in the past.

Structure : **Sub + was/were + verb-ing + comp.** (positive)

e.g : I **was reciting** the holy Quran yesterday at 4:00 pm.

e.g : they **were watching** TV last night.

Sub + was/were + not + verb-ing + comp. (negative)

e.g : I **was not reciting** the holy Quran yesterday at 4:00 pm.

e.g: they **were not watching** TV last night.

Was/were + sub + verb-ing + comp? (interrogative)

e.g : **was** I reciting the holy Quran yesterday at 4:00 pm?

e.g : **were** they watching TV last night?

Was/were + sub + not + verb-ing + comp? (negative interrogative)

e.g : **was** I **not reciting** the holy Quran yesterday at 4:00 pm?

e.g : **were** they **not watching** TV last night

Usages of Past Continuous Tense

1) Past continuous tense shows an action that was in progress and cut by another action in the past .

e.g : I **was having** a beautiful dream when the alarm clock rang.

e.g : when we **were playing** cricket, my father called me.

2) Past continuous tense show two actions happening simultaneously.

e.g : while I **was writing** the grammar, you **were looking** at the board.

e.g : the sun **was shining** and the birds **were singing.**

3) Past continuous tense is used to express a change of mind.

e.g : I **was going** to spend my day at the beach but I have decided to go an excursion instead.

Past Perfect Tense

Past perfect tense shows an action which completed before another action in the past.

> **Structure :** **Sub + had + 3rd-verb + comp.** **(positive)**

e.g : Ashraf had left the country before Taliban came to Kabul.

e.g : I had saved my document before the computer crashed.

> **Sub + had + not + 3rd-verb + comp.** **(negative)**

e.g : Ashraf had not left the country before Taliban came to Kabul.

e.g : I had not saved my document before the computer crashed.

> **Had + sub + 3rd-verb + comp ?** **(interrogative)**

e.g : Had Ashraf left the country before Taliban came to Kabul ?

e.g : Had I saved my document before the computer crashed ?

> **Had + sub + not + 3rd-verb + comp ?** **(negative interrogative)**

e.g : Had Ashraf not left the country before Taliban came to Kabul ?

e.g : Had I not saved my document before the computer crashed ?

NOTE : Function of Past Perfect Tense.

Past perfect tense refers to a time earlier than before now, it is used to make it clear that one event happened before another event in the past. It does not matter which event is mentioned first, the tense makes it clear which one happened first.

In the following examples event (A) is the first or earliest event I mean (Past Perfect Tense) and event (B) is the second or latest event I mean (Simple Past Tense)

> **Event (A)** **Event (B)**

e.g : we had already started cooking when they arrived.

> **Event (B)** **Event (A)**

e.g : when they arrived, we had already started cooking.

Both of them are correct and both of them have got the same meaning. If you use Past Perfect Tense first and Simple Past Tense second no problem, or if you use Simple Past Tense first and Past Perfect Tense second.

Usages of Past Perfect Tense

Past perfect + Just: is used with the past perfect to refer to an event that was only a short time earlier then before now.

e.g : the train **had just left** when I arrived at the station.

e.g : he **had just put** the washing out when it started to rain.

KEYWORDS

The following time expressions are usually used in the Past Perfect Tense.

Until, by the time, prior to that time, before, after, when and etc……………

Past Perfect Continuous Tense

It shows an action that was in progress before another action in the past.

Structure: **Sub + had + been + verb-ing + comp.**   (positive)

e.g: we **had been trying** to open the door when Ali found his key.

e.g: I **had been working** for five hours before she came to office.

Sub + had + not + been + verb-ing + comp. (negative)

e.g: we **had not been trying** to open the door when Ali found his key

e.g: I **had been not working** for five hours before she came to office.

Had + sub + been + verb-ing + comp ?   (interrogative)

e.g: **had** we **been trying** to open the door when Ali found his key?

e.g: **had** I **been working** for five hours before she came to office ?

Had + sub + not + been + verb-ing + comp ?   (negative interrogative)

e.g: **had** we **not been trying** to open the door when Ali found his key ?

e.g: **had** I **not been working** for five hours before she came to office ?

Usages of Past Perfect Continuous Tense

It shows an action that was just completed before another action in the past.

e.g: Taliban arrested a man who **had been stealing** weapons from the encampment.

Past perfect continuous tense is used to describe the cause of something in the past.

e.g: he was too tired because he **had been jogging**.

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Simple Future Tense

Simple future tense shows an action which will happen at particular time in the future.

Structure: Sub + will + 1ˢᵗ-berb + comp. **(positive)**

e.g: I will meet Ali tomorrow.

e.g: she will buy new shoes for her son next week.

Sub + will + not + 1ˢᵗ-verb + comp. **(negative)**

e.g: I will not meet Ali tomorrow.

e.g: she will not buy new shoes for her son next week.

Will + sub + 1ˢᵗ-verb + comp ? **(interrogative)**

e.g: will I meet Ali tomorrow ?

e.g: will she buy new shoes for her son next week

Will + sub + not + 1ˢᵗ-verb + comp ? **(negative interrogative)**

e.g: will I not meet Ali tomorrow ?

e.g: will she not buy new shoes for her son next week ?

Will: it shows promise.

e.g: I promise I will study hard.

e.g: I promise I will not lie anymore.

Be Going To: it shows pre planned future actions.

Be Going To: means (is, am, are + going to)

e.g: I am going to start computer course next month.

e.g: he is going to leave Afghanistan tomorrow.

Will and Be Going To: they are used for predictions.

e.g: it will snow tomorrow.

e.g: it is going to snow tomorrow.

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Future Continuous Tense

Future continuous tense: it shows an action which will be in progress at specific time in the future.

Sub + will + be + verb-ing + comp. (positive)

e.g: I **will be staying** at home at three o clock this afternoon

e.g: she **will be driving** the car tomorrow this time.

Sub + will + not + be + verb-ing + comp. (negative)

e.g: I **will not be staying** at home at three o clock this afternoon.

e.g: she **will not be driving** the car tomorrow this time.

Will + sub + be + verb-ing + comp ? (interrogative)

e.g: **will** I be staying at home at three o clock this afternoon?

e.g: **will** she **be driving** the car tomorrow this time ?

Will + sub + not + be + verb-ing + comp ? (negative interrogative)

e.g : **Will** I **not be staying** at home at three o clock this afternoon ?

e.g: **Will** she **not be driving** the car tomorrow this time ?

Usages of Future Continuous Tense

1) Future continuous tense in interrogative sentences with the subject (you) shows an invitation.

e.g: **will you be coming** to wedding party tonight?

2) to predict or guess someone's feeling or actions now or in the future.

e.g: **you will be missing** her next month.

e.g: he **will be feeling** sick after this much work.

Future Perfect Tense

Future perfect tense: it shows an action that will be completed before another action in the future.

Structure: Sub + will + have + 3rd-verb + comp.   (positive)

e.g: I will have left London before you come here.

e.g: she will have learned English before she gets a good job.

Sub + will + not + have + 3rd-verb + comp.   (negative)

e.g: I will not have left London before you come here.

e.g: she will not have learned English before she gets a good job.

Will + sub + have + 3rd-verb + comp?   (interrogative)

e.g: Will I have left London before you come here?

e.g: Will she have learned English before she gets a good job?

Will + sub + not + have + 3rd-verb + comp?   (negative interrogative)

e.g: Will I not have left London before you come here?

e.g: Will she not have learned before she gets a good job?

Usages of Future Perfect Tense

1) Future perfect tense shows state.

e.g: I will have been in the class for two hours before you come to class.

e.g: we will have had two houses before you get married.

2) future perfect tense shows an action that will be in progress before another action in the future.

e.g: they will have waited for us for three hours before we come.

e.g: I will have stayed there for five days before I go to United Kingdom

Future Perfect Continuous Tense

future perfect continuous tense show an action that will be in progress before another action in the future.

> **Structure: Sub + will + have + been + verb-ing + comp.** (positive)

e.g: I will have been sleeping for four hours before you call me.

e.g: he will have been playing cricket for one hour before we start the match.

> **Sub+ will + not + have + been + verb-ing + comp.** (negative)

e.g: I will not have been sleeping for four hours before you call me.

e.g: he will not have been playing cricket for one hour before we start the match.

> **Will + sub + have + been + verb-ing + comp?** (interrogative)

e.g: Will I have been sleeping for four hours before you call me?

e.g: will he have been playing cricket for one hour before we start the match?

> **Will + sub + not + have + been + verb-ing + comp?** (negative interrogative)

e.g: Will I not have been sleeping for four hours before you call me?

e.g: Will he not have been playing cricket for one hour before we start the match?

What is difference between future perfect tense and future perfect continuous tense?

Answer: Fortunately we a have simple way to remember the difference between these two

Tenses.

Future Perfect tense describes an action that will end in the future and Future Perfect Continuous Tense describes an action that will continue in the future.

LIST OF IRREGULAR VERBS

Become	**became**	**become**
Begin	**began**	**begun**
Bleed	**bled**	**bled**
Break	**broke**	**broken**
Build	**built**	**built**
Burn	**burnt**	**burnt**
Buy	**bought**	**bought**
Catch	**caught**	**caught**
Cut	**cut**	**cut**
Do	**did**	**done**
Draw	**drew**	**drawn**
Dream	**dreamt**	**dreamt**
Drive	**drove**	**driven**
Eat	**ate**	**eaten**
Fall	**fell**	**fallen**
Feel	**felt**	**felt**
Fight	**fought**	**fought**
Find	**found**	**found**
Fly	**flew**	**flown**
Forbid	**forbade**	**forbidden**
Forget	**forgot**	**forgotten**
Forgive	**forgave**	**forgiven**
Give	**gave**	**given**
Go	**went**	**gone**
Grow	**grew**	**grown**
Have	**had**	**had**
Keep	**kept**	**kept**

LIST OF REGULAR VERBS

Act	acted	acted
Accept	accepted	accepted
Achieve	achieved	achieved
Add	added	added
Advise	advised	advised
Attack	attacked	attacked
Arrive	arrived	arrived
Bake	baked	baked
Behave	behaved	behaved
Close	closed	closed
Die	died	died
Disturb	disturbed	disturbed
End	ended	ended
Enjoy	enjoyed	enjoyed
Fix	fixed	fixed
Follow	followed	followed
Greet	greeted	greeted
Hunt	hunted	hunted
Imagine	imagined	imagined
Invite	invited	invited
Jump	jumped	jumped
Knock	knocked	knocked
Love	loved	loved
Manage	managed	managed
Match	matched	matched
Open	opened	opened
Talk	talked	talked