

## Simple Tense

Verb tense tells you when the action happens. There are three main verb tenses: present, past, and future. Each main tense is divided into simple, progressive, perfect, and perfect progressive tenses.

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Past</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>Simple</b>	finish	finished	will finish
<b>Progressive</b>	am/is/are finishing	was/were finishing	will be finishing
<b>Perfect</b>	have/has finished	had finished	will have finished
<b>Perfect Progressive</b>	have/has been finishing	had been finishing	will have been finishing

Things to remember about simple tense:

- Present tense is the original verb form.
- Past tense has a few patterns.
- Future tense needs will (shall) + verb.

### run

- I run a marathon twice a year. (present)
- I ran a marathon last year. (past)
- I will run a marathon next year. (future)

### eat

- I eat lunch in my office.
- I ate lunch an hour ago.
- I will eat lunch in one hour.

### see

- I see a movie once a week.
- I saw a movie yesterday.
- I will see a movie tomorrow.

### know

- I know it.
- I knew it the day before yesterday.
- I will know it by tomorrow.

### learn

- I learn English.
- I learned English the last two years.
- I will learn English next year.

### cook

- I cook my supper every night.
- I cooked our dinner already.
- I will cook breakfast tomorrow.

# Adjectives

Adjectives describe or modify nouns.

I like fairy tales. A fairy tale is an imaginary story that has unrealistic characters in a fantastic background. It makes me forget about the real world and refreshes my tired mind.

Adjectives generally appear immediately before the noun.

- A pretty girl
- Red flowers
- A long stick
- Heavy boxes
- Warm weather

Commonly, adjectives of opposite meaning are formed by adding a prefix such as *un*, *in*, or *dis*.

- clear – unclear, important – unimportant, predictable – unpredictable, believable – unbelievable, common – uncommon, aware – unaware, ambiguous – unambiguous, conventional – unconventional, certain – uncertain
- definite – indefinite, correct – incorrect, comparable – incomparable, complete – incomplete, evitable – inevitable, expensive – inexpensive
- able – disable, assemble – disassemble, content – discontent, similar – dissimilar

When using a string of adjectives, they should appear in a set order: size/shape + age + color + origin + material.

- A big brown house
- A small old English desk
- A beautiful black Italian leather purse
- Delicious Chinese food

*The* + adjective describes a class or group of people and acts as a noun.

- the old, the young, the poor, the rich, the oppressed, the homeless, etc.
- This popular TV show is loved by **the old**.

# Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Comparative adjectives compare two things. Superlative adjectives compare more than two things

Commonly, adjectives that contain only one syllable or end in 'y' use 'er' to form comparatives and 'est' to form superlatives. For adjectives ending in y, change the 'y' to 'i' before adding the 'er' or 'est'.

- old – older – oldest
- young – younger – youngest
- pretty – prettier – prettiest
- long – longer – longest
- short – shorter – shortest
- bright – brighter – brightest
- close – closer – closest
- happy – happier – happiest

Adjectives with two or more syllables do not change but instead add *more* to form comparatives and *most* to form superlatives.

- respectable – more respectable – most respectable
- beautiful – more beautiful – most beautiful
- preferable – more preferable – most preferable
- hardworking – more hardworking – most hardworking

Some adjectives have different forms of comparatives and superlatives.

- good – better – best
- bad – worse – worst
- little – less – least
- much (many) – more – most
- far – further – furthest

The word *than* typically appears in comparative sentences.

- Amy is smarter than Betty.
- Chad is stronger than Dan.
- Greg is more diligent than his brother.
- I have more apples than he.
- She likes him more than me.

Superlatives are typically accompanied by the word *the*.

- Tom is the oldest man in town.
- Paul is the tallest boy in the neighborhood.
- That shade of blue is the most beautiful color.
- This is the longest song that I have ever heard.

# Adverbs

Adverbs modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

An adverb tells more about a verb in the sentence.

- The fire engine runs fast.
- Listen to his speech carefully.
- I browse the web frequently.
- It rained hard.

An adverb describes more about an adjective in the sentence.

- The news is very surprising!
- The coffee is extremely hot, so be careful.
- Nature is really amazing!

An adverb modifies another adverb in the sentence.

- It rains very hard.
- Computers run much faster these days.
- I clean my room less frequently because I am busy.

Commonly, adjectives can be changed to adverbs by adding 'ly'.

- slow – slowly
- quick – quickly
- comfortable – comfortably
- loud – loudly
- clear – clearly

To change adjectives ending in 'y' into adverbs, change the 'y' to 'i' and add 'ly'.

- happy – happily
- easy – easily