

tense

All verbs have **tense**. The **tense** of a verb tells you the time when an action happens – either in the present, the past or the future.

The present tense

The present tense describes actions or situations that are happening now.

I work.
I am working.

The form of the verb agrees with the subject.

You work.
He works.
It works.
We work.
They work.

The past tense

The past tense describes actions that have already happened.

I worked.
I was working.

You can turn many verbs into the past tense by adding **-ed**:

act	→	acted
collect	→	collected
talk	→	talked

Other common verbs have past tenses that are formed very differently:

buy	→	bought	go	→	went
catch	→	caught	sit	→	sat
eat	→	ate	take	→	took
find	→	found	win	→	won

The future tense

Actions that will happen in future time can be shown in different ways:

I shall work next week.
I shall be working next week.
I am going to work next week.
I am working next week.