WHAT IS A VERB TENSE?

A verb tense is a conjugated form of a verb to indicate the time of an action, event, or condition. There are twelve English verb tenses.

HOW DO YOU FORM VERB TENSES?

- **Simple** past and present tenses are formed without any helping (auxiliary) verb. The simple future tense requires the use of the verb “will”.

- **Perfect** tense is conjugated using a form of the verb “to have” along with past participle of the main verb. The form of “to have” determines if it is past, present, or future.

- **Progressive** tense is conjugated using a form of the verb “to be” along with the present participle (-ing) of the main verb. The form of “to be” determines if it is past, present, or future.

- **Perfect Progressive** tense is conjugated using a form of the verb “to have”, the past participle of the verb “to be”, and the present participle of the main verb (-ing). The form of the verb “to have” determines if it is past, present, or future.

**Present Tenses**

**Simple Present:** expresses a present or habitual action.

She is a soccer player. (*present action*)

She studies every night. (*habitual action*)

**Present Perfect:** expresses an action that began in the past and is still happening in the present, a habitual action, or an action that occurred at an unspecified or indefinite time in the past.

She has been a soccer player for five years. (*past action still occurring*)

She has studied every night while in school. (*habitual action*)

No one has ever been to Mars. (*unspecified time*)
**Past Tenses**

**Simple Past:**
She practiced soccer after school.
She studied for the test last night.

**Past Perfect:**
She had played soccer before she moved to New York City.
He had studied English before moving to the United States.

**Past Progressive:**
Brian was playing soccer all day yesterday.
Mary was shopping for eight hours yesterday.

**Past Perfect Progressive:**
They had been waiting for over an hour before the guests arrived.
Ms. Smith had been teaching for twenty years before she quit.

**Future Tenses**

**Simple Future:**
She will practice soccer after school.
They are moving to Europe after the semester ends.

**Future Perfect:**
I will have received a promotion by next July.
By the time her husband gets home, she will have cleaned the entire house.
**Future Progressive:**
The state fair will be occurring for the next three weeks. I will be waiting for her when the plane arrives tonight.

**Future Perfect Progressive:**
In December next year, you will have been attending graduate school for two years. I will have been teaching history for thirty-five years by the time I retire.