

Quick Help With English Verbs

Transitive Verbs (verbs that can be followed by a direct object)

Four basic forms:

Infinitive	Present Participle	Simple Past	Past Participle
Sing	singing	sang	sung

The English tenses can be formed from a combination of the personal pronouns (I, you, he, she, it, we, and they) and the following:

	Active	Passive
Present (Simple)	personal pronoun + infinitive <i>I sing</i>	personal pronoun + am/is/are + past participle <i>It is sung</i>
Present (Progressive)	personal pronoun + am/is/are + present participle <i>I am singing</i>	personal pronoun + am/is/are + being + past participle <i>It is being sung</i>
Past (Simple)	personal pronoun + simple past <i>I sang</i>	personal pronoun + has/have + been + past participle <i>It has been sung</i>
Past (Progressive)	personal pronoun + was/were + present participle <i>I was singing</i>	personal pronoun + was/were + being + past participle <i>It was being sung</i>
Present Perfect (Simple)	personal pronoun + has/have + past participle <i>I have sung</i>	personal pronoun + has/have + been + past participle <i>It has been sung</i>
Present Perfect (Progressive)	personal pronoun + has/have + been + present participle <i>I have been singing</i>	personal pronoun + has/have + been + past participle <i>It has been sung</i>

Past Perfect (Simple)	personal pronoun + had + past participle <i>I had sung</i>	personal pronoun + had + been + past participle <i>It had been sung</i>
Past Perfect (Progressive)	personal pronoun + had + been + present participle <i>I had been singing</i>	personal pronoun + had + been + past participle <i>It had been sung</i>
Future (Simple)	personal pronoun + will + infinitive <i>I will sing</i>	personal pronoun + will + be + past participle <i>It will be sung</i>
Future (Progressive)	personal pronoun + will + be + present participle <i>I will be singing</i>	personal pronoun + will + be + past participle <i>It will be sung</i>
Future Perfect (Simple)	personal pronoun + will + have + past participle <i>I will have sung</i>	personal pronoun + will + have + been + past participle <i>It will have been sung</i>
Future Perfect (Progressive)	personal pronoun + will + have + been + present participle <i>I will have been singing</i>	personal pronoun + will + have + been + past participle <i>It will have been sung</i>

Special Notes

1. Simple tense forms show snapshot action, while progressive forms show ongoing or repeated action.
2. Perfect tenses show completed action. Present perfect shows action completed in the past, but with consequences for the present time. Past perfect shows action completed before some other past action, as in *After the bell HAD RUNG, we ran from the room.* Future perfect shows action that will be completed by some point in the future.
3. English is defective in that it lacks distinct passive forms for the simple past and present perfect (simple and progressive), the past perfect simple and progressive, the future simple and progressive, and the future perfect simple and progressive.