

Past, Present, and Future Tenses

The **tense** of a verb shows when something happens. Verbs in the **present tense** show action that happens now. Some present tense singular verbs end with *-s* or *-es*. Most present tense plural verbs do not end with *-s* or *-es*.

An inventor **creates** a new tool. Inventions serve us well.

Verbs in the **past tense** show action that has already happened. Most verbs in the past tense end in *-ed*.

Not long ago, electronics **changed** the world.

Verbs in the **future tense** show action that will happen. Add *will* (or *shall*) to most verbs to show the future tense.

Many more inventions **will** appear.

- Some regular verbs change spelling when *-ed* is added. For verbs ending in *e*, drop the *e* and add *-ed*: *used*, *celebrated*. For verbs ending in a consonant and *y*, change the *y* to *i* and add *-ed*: *spied*, *lied*.
- For most one-syllable verbs that end in one vowel followed by one consonant, double the consonant and add *-ed*: *wrapped*, *patted*.
- Irregular verbs change spelling to form the past tense: *are/were*, *bring/brought*, *eat/ate*, *find/found*, *fly/flew*, *go/went*, *have/had*, *is/was*, *make/made*, *see/saw*, *sit/sat*, *take/took*, *tell/told*, *think/thought*, *write/wrote*.