

| Tense in Independent Clause | Purpose of Dependent Clause/ Tense in Dependent Clause | Example(s) |
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| Simple Present | To show same-time action, use the present tense | I <i>am</i> eager to go to the concert because I <i>love</i> the Wallflowers. |
| | To show earlier action, use past tense | I <i>know</i> that I <i>made</i> the right choice. |
| | To show a period of time extending from some point in the past to the present, use the present perfect tense. | They <i>believe</i> that <i>they have elected</i> the right candidate. |
| | To show action to come, use the future tense. | The President <i>says</i> that he <i>will veto</i> the bill. |
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| Simple Past | To show another completed past action, use the past tense. | I <i>wanted</i> to go home because I <i>missed</i> my parents. |
| | To show an earlier action, use the past perfect tense. | She <i>knew</i> she <i>had made</i> the right choice. |
| | To state a general truth, use the present tense. | The Deists <i>believed</i> that the universe <i>is</i> like a giant clock. |
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| Present Perfect or Past Perfect | <p>To show something that is happening now and has been happening in the past.</p> <p>To describe a past event or condition completed before something else in the past.</p> | <p>She <i>has grown</i> a foot since she <i>turned</i> nine.</p> <p>The crowd <i>had turned</i> nasty before the sheriff <i>returned</i>.</p> |
| | | |
| Future | To show action happening at the same time, use the present tense. | I <i>will be</i> so happy if they <i>fix</i> my car today. |
| | To show an earlier action, use the past tense. | You <i>will</i> surely <i>pass</i> this exam if you <i>studied</i> hard. |
| | To show future action <i>earlier than</i> the action of the independent clause, use the present perfect tense. | The college <i>will</i> probably <i>close</i> its doors next summer if enrollments <i>have not increased</i> . |

Future Perfect

For any purpose, use the present tense or present perfect tense.

Most students *will have taken* sixty credits by the time they *graduate*.
Most students *will have taken* sixty credits by the time they *have graduated*.

INFINITIVES

Tense of Infinitive

Role of Infinitive

Example(s)

Present Infinitive (to see)

To show same-time action or action later than the verb

Coach Espinoza *is eager to try* out her new drills. [The eagerness is now; the trying out will happen later.]
She *would have liked to see* more veterans returning. [The present infinitive *to see* is in the same time as the past *would have liked*.]

Perfect Infinitive (to have seen)

To show action earlier than the verb

The fans *would like to have seen* some improvement this year. ["Would like" describes a present condition; "to have seen" describes something prior to that time.]
They *consider* the team *to have been coached* very well. [The perfect infinitive *to have been coached* indicates a time prior to the verb *consider*.]

PARTICIPLES

Tense of Participle

Role of Participle

Example(s)

Present Participle (seeing)

To show action occurring at the same time as that of the verb

Working on the fundamentals, the team slowly *began* to improve. [The action expressed by *began* happened in the past, at the same time the *working* happened.]

Past Participle or Present

To show action occurring earlier than that of the verb

Prepared by last year's experience, the coach *knows* not to expect too much. [The action expressed by *knows* is in the present; *prepared* expresses a time prior to that time.]
Having experimented with several game plans,

**Perfect
Participle**

the coaching staff *devised* a master strategy. [The present perfect participle *having experimented* indicates a time prior to the past tense verb, *devised*.]

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