

Tense

Tense refers to "time." The tenses of a verb tell us when the action of the verb took place. The twelve major tenses in English for the regular verb *look* are shown in the chart that follows.

Twelve Verb Tenses

<i>Tense</i>	<i>Time Referred To</i>	<i>Example</i>
Present	Happens now or happens habitually	I look good today. Bruce looks like his father.
Past	Already happened	Students looked the word up in the dictionary.
Future	Is going to happen	Things will look better for you in a few days.
Present perfect	Began in past but recently completed or continuing in present	Corinne has looked much more relaxed since she changed jobs. Corinne has looked for a new job before.
Past perfect	Happened before another past action	She had looked very tired before she quit her old job.
Future perfect	Is going to happen before some other future action	Her former boss will have looked at 350 job applications by the end of the month.
Present progressive	Is in progress	Julio is looking for a new apartment right now. His parents are looking, too.
Past progressive	Was in progress	He was looking in their old neighborhood, but they were looking downtown.
Future progressive	Will be in progress	With rents so high, they probably will be looking for quite a while.
Present perfect progressive	Was in progress and still is	Flora has been looking at soap operas for the last two hours.
Past perfect progressive	Was in progress until recently	She had been looking at her study notes.
Future perfect progressive	Will be in progress until a set time in the future	Unless she gets back to work, she will have been looking at television until dinnertime.

SPECIAL USES

Use the present tense when writing about literature or expressing general truths: In Masuji Ibuse's *Black Rain*, a child reaches for a Pomegranite in his mother's garden, and a moment later he is dead, killed by the blast of the atomic bomb.

Scientific principles should appear in the present tense, unless such principles have been disproved:

Galileo taught that the earth revolves around the sun.

The past perfect tense is used for an action already completed by the time of another past action. This tense consists of a past participle preceded by *had* (had worked, had gone): We built our cabin high on a pine knoll, forty feet above an abandoned quarry that had been flooded in 1920 to create a lake.