

## A SUMMARY OF VERB TENSES

### Present Tense

Simple present: happening now or occurring regularly

- He *performs* his own stunts.

Present progressive: happening now; going on (in progress) now

- The governor *is considering* a Senate campaign.

Present perfect: began in the past and was completed in the past or is continuing now

- The children's benefactor *has followed* their progress closely.

Present perfect progressive: began in the past and is continuing now

- She *has been singing* in nightclubs for thirty years.

### Past Tense

Simple past: began and ended in the past

- The doctor *treated* him with experimental drugs.

Past progressive: began and continued in the past

- They *were not expecting* any visitors.

Past perfect: occurred before a certain time in the past or was completed before another action was begun

- The birds *had eaten* all the berries before we knew they were ripe.

Past perfect progressive: was taking place until a second action occurred

- He *had been seeing* a psychiatrist before his collapse.

### Future Tense

Simple future: will take place in the future

- The play *will begin* on time.

Future progressive: will both begin and end in the future

- After we get on the plane, we *will be sitting* for hours.

Future perfect: will be completed by a certain time in the future or before another action will begin

- By next month, the new apprentice *will have become* an expert.

Future perfect progressive: will continue until a certain time in the future

- By the time she earns her Ph.D., she *will have been studying* history for twelve years.