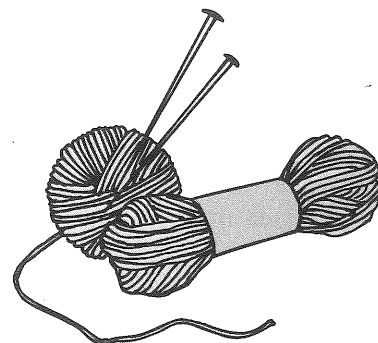


## Perfect Tenses of Verbs

Action that is completed by a certain time is expressed in a **perfect tense**. Every perfect tense verb has at least two words: a simple tense form of *have* and the past participle of the main verb. (Remember that the simple tense forms of *have* are as follows: present—*has, have*; past—*had*; future—*will have*.)



Use the **present perfect tense** to express action that began in the past. The action may now be complete or continuing.

Emma has knitted since she was a child. (continuing)

I have received a handmade scarf from her. (complete)

Use the **past perfect tense** to express action that was completed before another action in the past.

She had knitted many articles before she began high school.

Use the **future perfect tense** to express action that will be completed before a time or action in the future.

She will have knitted another sweater by the end of this year.

At least one verb in each item below is in a perfect tense. Underline every verb or verb phrase in the item. Then write each perfect tense verb on the line.

- Last week the bus company changed the times that my bus runs. Riders had complained about the old schedule. \_\_\_\_\_
- Vincent has collected fifty items for the museum's fundraising auction this week. By April, he will have donated fifty volunteer hours. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crystal has offered us a ride to the airport, but our luggage probably will not fit in her tiny trunk. \_\_\_\_\_
- Paco had hired Passable Painters before he received a price quote. \_\_\_\_\_
- Jenise and Arthur have exchanged e-mail daily for over three years, ever since they met. \_\_\_\_\_
- Marc will sell his car next spring. By then, he will have put over 86,000 miles on it. \_\_\_\_\_

**B****Practice**

Determine the tense of the underlined verb in each sentence. On the line, write *Present* for present perfect, *Past* for past perfect, and *Future* for future perfect.

1. a. The customer service representative has answered at least fifteen calls this hour. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Bev had worked in sales before she became a customer service rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Before the end of her shift, Bev will have answered over 100 calls today. \_\_\_\_\_
2. a. Until a stray cat followed him home, Jack had considered cats unfriendly. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. To this day, Jack's opinion of cats has not changed. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. By year's end, Jack will have advised almost all of his friends to get cats. \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. By the end of the month, the book club at the library will have discussed the book *1984*. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. No one had dreaded the arrival of the year 1984 before the book was published. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. The book's author had predicted events before people were ready to accept what might happen in the future. \_\_\_\_\_

**Underline the correct form of the verb to complete each sentence.**

4. The children (has washed, had washed) the dishes before they went outside to play.
5. Christine (has sang, has sung) in a choir since she was five years old.
6. I (has received, have received) a birthday present from Anna.
7. Joe (had bought, will have bought) his wife a new pair of earrings by the time the holidays arrive.
8. By tomorrow night Heather (had finished, will have finished) her report.

## C Apply

Read each pair of sentences. Choose the sentence that uses the correct verb tense.

- A The man had lost five bets before he gave up gambling for good.  
B The man had been losing five bets before he gave up gambling for good.
- A Since the tornado had knocked the tower down, homes in this area will not received television signals.  
B Since the tornado knocked the tower down, homes in this area have not received television signals.
- A At the end of the coming season, our shortstop will have played for 17 years.  
B At the end of the coming season, our shortstop had played for 17 years.
- A My office plants had looked sick before I moved them off the windowsill.  
B My office plants has looked sick before I moved them off the windowsill.

Complete each sentence with a perfect tense form of the verb in parentheses.

5. (plan) The detective learned that the suspect \_\_\_\_\_ a trip before she suddenly disappeared.
6. (grab) Before his parents hurried him out, that little boy \_\_\_\_\_ the ears of half the animals in the petting zoo.
7. (complete) By bedtime tonight, Angela \_\_\_\_\_ most of the crossword puzzles in her new book.
8. (stand) That bookcase \_\_\_\_\_ in that corner ever since we moved into the house.
9. (clear) By the time this blizzard ends tomorrow, snowplows \_\_\_\_\_ roads nonstop for five days.
10. (use) We \_\_\_\_\_ fans for five hours by the time someone comes to fix the air-conditioning.

**D****Check Up**

Choose the verb or verb phrase that best completes each sentence.

1. By the time he leaves the buffet table, Johnnie \_\_\_\_\_ a helping of every food available.  
A will have taken  
B will have take  
C will have took  
D took
2. I found that Steve \_\_\_\_\_ me before I had returned from vacation.  
F has called  
G will have called  
H had called  
J have called
3. Just before the storm hit, the temperature \_\_\_\_\_ sharply.  
A have dropped  
B will have dropped  
C has dropped  
D had dropped
4. Edna \_\_\_\_\_ songs for her family since she was five years old.  
F have sung  
G had sung  
H will have sung  
J has sung

Read each set of sentences, paying special attention to verbs and their tenses. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

5. A Before we moved here, we has lived in an apartment.  
B When we took the apartment, we have just moved here from Ohio.  
C At the end of August, we will have lived here six years.  
D We will have appreciated the nearby bus line.
6. F Ginny will have complained about dorm food all year.  
G Before she came to the dorm, she have complained about the food at home.  
H Everyone have heard her gripes.  
J Nevertheless, she has not lost weight this year.
7. A Today, Elmo learned that library fines have changed a week ago.  
B Before the change, the library had charged two cents per day for overdue books.  
C Since last Thursday, the fine will have been five cents per day.  
D By next Monday, his fines will have climb above five dollars.
8. F For some time, Willa have kept the office bulletin board free of clutter.  
G Managers have leaved their notices of meetings up for months.  
H Recently her job have become easier.  
J The reason is that managers have switched to e-mail.