Verbs tell us what happens, has happened or will happen. The tense of a verb tells us when something happens – in the past, the present or the future.

- past simple tense: It snowed.
- past progressive tense: It was snowing.
- perfect tense: It has snowed.
- past perfect tense: It had snowed.
- present simple tense: It snows.
- present progressive tense: It is snowing.
- future tense: It will snow.

Focus

A Say the verb tenses with *It* for each verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>past simple</th>
<th>past progressive</th>
<th>perfect</th>
<th>past perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>present simple</td>
<td>present progressive</td>
<td>future</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 to rain 2 to blow 3 to hail 4 to shine 5 to drizzle

B Identify the verb in each sentence and say which tense it is.

1 The wind had gusted at 40kph.
2 The hail is battering the windows.
3 The fog swirled across the moors.
4 The lightning has struck the oak tree.
5 It will snow tomorrow.
**Practice**

**A** Write these sentences in the *present progressive tense* and the *past progressive tense*.

1 I shelter under a tree.
2 The thunder rumbles in the distance.
3 Flags flutter in the breeze.

**B** Write these sentences in the *perfect tense* and the *past perfect tense*.

1 The wind blows strongly.
2 The sun is shining brightly.
3 The clouds are obscuring the sun.

**C** Write these sentences in the *present simple tense* and the *past simple tense*.

1 It will rain.
2 The wind will blow.
3 It will drizzle.

**Extension**

Write a sentence using each pair of verbs.

Use the *past simple tense* and the *past perfect tense*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action 1</th>
<th>Action 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to eat</td>
<td>to wash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to burn</td>
<td>to build</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to borrow</td>
<td>to lose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to post</td>
<td>to write</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The first one is done for you.*

I ate my lunch after I had washed my hands.