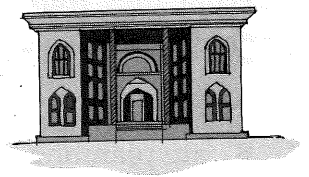


## Perfect Tenses of Verbs

**Perfect tenses** express action completed by a certain time. Each perfect tense verb has at least two words: a simple tense form of *have* and the past participle of the main verb. The simple tense forms of *have* are the following: present—*has, have*; past—*had*; future—*will have*.



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

The Noble Library has served the community for 50 years. (continuing action)  
Patrons have approved every library tax levy to date. (completed action)

The **past perfect tense** is used to express action that was completed before another action in the past.

The Garden Club had met in private homes *before the new library building provided meeting rooms.*

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

The club will have held its 50th meeting in the library *by next June.*

**Underline the verbs and verb phrases in each sentence. Write the perfect tense verbs on the lines.**

1. I had dressed before I heard the weather report. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The directions for bike assembly look simple, but Eloise will have worked on the job for at least 40 hours by the time she gives it to Junior. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tomás has already studied English for two months. \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you have not yet sent in your reservation, you may not get a seat.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Before the Capitol was opened in Washington, D.C., Congress had met in New York City. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Sweet Stuff will appear last on the program. By then, seven other bands will have played. \_\_\_\_\_

**B Practice**

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

1. Stefan (worked, has worked) at that pizza parlor since high school.
2. Ever since the Liberty Bell cracked, no one (will have rung, has rung) it.
3. The U.S. economy (will have experienced, had experienced) major problems before the stock market crashed in 1929.
4. Last fall the local weather forecasters (have predicted, predicted) a dry winter.
5. Members of the machinists' union (have considered, will have considered) their options by the time they receive the company's offer.
6. Until Kristin finds a new apartment, she (will leave, will have left) her valuables at her parents' home.
7. Alfred (has painted, will have painted) Canadian nature scenes for sixteen years.
8. Robins (had built, built) nests in that tree before we put up the birdhouse.
9. Marie (bowled, has bowled) a perfect game last night at the *Rock 'n Bowl*.
10. Oh, no! I (will have found, have found) another historical error in this novel!

Underline the perfect tense verb in each of the following sentences.

11. Dan had read the *Chicago Tribune* every morning before he started reading the news on the Internet.
12. Juanita has enjoyed all of the band's concerts this year.
13. Joey will have traveled to fifteen different countries by the end of the month.
14. Both of my grandparents have lived in the same small neighborhood for fifty years.
15. Before Matthew bought his condominium, he had lived in Detroit with his parents.
16. By the time Christmas arrives, Jessica will have finished decorating her house in red and green.
17. Thomas had developed his own photographs before his brother-in-law bought him a digital camera.
18. The couple had gone to the farmer's market on Broadway every Saturday for three years.

**C****Apply**

Read each pair of sentences. Circle the letter of the sentence that uses verb tenses correctly.

- A The children have played in the pool before the thunder started.  
B The children had played in the pool before the thunder started.
- A For centuries, Mexicans have honored dead relatives through special activities on the Day of the Dead.  
B For centuries, Mexicans are honored dead relatives through special activities on the Day of the Dead.
- A Generations of Americans had developed their own version of the English language before Noah Webster produced the first American dictionary.  
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- A When this train arrived in Denver, it will have traveled for over nineteen hours.  
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Complete each sentence with a perfect tense form of the verb in parentheses.

- (build) Barely Good Enough Construction, Inc. \_\_\_\_\_ houses in this area before Mr. Mehta sued the company.
- (plan) As of next March, Marianne \_\_\_\_\_ to remodel her kitchen for four years.
- (use) Before the police caught him, the thief \_\_\_\_\_ counterfeit money in area stores.
- (blow) A strong wind \_\_\_\_\_ all afternoon before the storm arrived.
- (beat) Before losing last night's game, the Northern Lumber softball team \_\_\_\_\_ the East Side Auto team four times in a row.
- (grow) Mike, I believe you \_\_\_\_\_ another foot taller since the last time I saw you!

**D****Check Up**

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

1. Our family doctor retired because her malpractice insurance \_\_\_\_\_ too expensive.  
A has become  
B had become  
C will have become  
D becomes
2. That portrait \_\_\_\_\_ there for over 50 years.  
F has hung  
G have hung  
H will have hung  
J is hung
3. Ed \_\_\_\_\_ the book before his teacher recommended it.  
A have read  
B will have read  
C had read  
D has read
4. If he gets this batter out, the relief pitcher \_\_\_\_\_ his fourth game in five outings.  
F has saved  
G will have saved  
H will have saved  
J had saved

For each item, choose the sentence that is written correctly.

5. A Chan have camped in the woods for five summers.  
B This time, he develop a rash.  
C Before a doctor confirmed it, he knew that he had come into contact with poison ivy.  
D By tomorrow, he will have apply cortisone to his skin for a week.
6. F Election practices change over the past few decades.  
G Candidates has relied on personal appearances more before television commercials could speak for them.  
H Candidates have try to combat the public's distrust of politicians.  
J Election practices will have changed by the next century.
7. A Beverly and Debra have discussed possible problems before they decided to share an apartment.  
B Debra has never objected to housework while Beverly has always hated it.  
C While Debra cleans, Beverly has cooking for two.  
D By month's end, their arrangement will have be successful for two years.
8. F Ellen had never be on a plane before she started her new job.  
G Before the job switch, she had never even visited the East Coast.  
H Recently, however, she had meet with clients in Boston.  
J After her next trip, she will have flew 20,000 miles.