

## **VERB TENSES**

**Swarthmore College Writing Center** writing.swarthmore.edu 610.328.8659

## I. **Twelve Traditional Verb Tenses**

- 1. **Simple Present-** expresses events or situations that exist always or habitually. IT exists in the past, present, and future.
  - Ex: I eat my lunch everyday.
- 2. **Simple Past-** expresses an event that has begun and ended in the past.
  - Ex: Yesterday I ate lunch with Chris.
- 3. **Simple Future-** expresses an event that will occur sometime in the future.
  - Ex: I will eat lunch with friends tomorrow.
- 4. **Present Progressive** expresses an action that is in progress in the present but began in the past.
  - Ex: I am eating my lunch right now.
- 5. **Past Progressive** expresses an action that was in progress in the past and ended in the past.
  - Ex: I was eating my lunch when the fire alarm sounded.
- 6. **Future Progressive-** expresses an action that begins and continues in the future.
  - Ex: I will be eating my lunch when the meeting begins.
- 7. **Present Perfect** expresses that one event has been completed in the present.
  - Ex: I have eaten my lunch.
- 8. **Past Perfect-** expresses that one event was completed in the past.
  - Ex: I had already eaten my lunch when the fire alarm sounded.
- 9. **Future Perfect-** expresses the completion of an event in the future.
  - I will have eaten my lunch before the meeting begins.
- 10. **Present Perfect Progressive-** expresses that an event is in progress immediately before, or up to another event in the present.
  - Ex: I have been eating my lunch for 20 minutes.
- 11. Past Perfect Progressive- expresses that an event was in progress in the past immediately before or up to another event in the past.
  - Ex: I had been eating my lunch for 20 minutes when the fire alarm sounded.
- 12. **Future Perfect Progressive** expresses that an event will progress in the future immediately before or up to another event in the future.