Tense

Past, Progressive Past and Perfect Form

Verbs

Verbs indicate that someone or something is
doing, feeling or being.

They built a ship.
Tom fell.
I played and played.
The stairs were a mess!

Usually verbs have the name of a person or thing or a pronoun in front of them.

Verbs have a **tense**.

They tell us *when* the action happened.

In the past,

In the present,

or, in the future.

Tom played.

We have such fun.

We will play again tomorrow.

Verbs have a **tense**.

They tell us *when* the action happened.

Present tense	Past tense
The boys *play*. Tom *falls* on the stairs. I *am* a bit sad. You *tell* me not to worry.	The boys *played*. Tom *fell* on the stairs. I *was* a bit sad. You *told* me not to worry.

Progressive form of verbs

The progressive form is continuous.

It suggests that the action **continues**, for a period of time,

Mum *was waiting* for me to finish playing.

or **continues** at the time something else happens or happened.

We *were playing* when Tom fell over.

Simple past and past-progressive

Simple- Past	Past-Progressive
I *played* superheroes.	I *was playing superheroes.*
The cat *sat* patiently.	The cat *was sitting* patiently.
Tom *came* back.	Tom *was coming* back.
Dad *read.*	Dad *was reading.*

Perfect form

Perfect form

The perfect form of the past tense suggests that
a past action is **still affecting the present**.

Simple past	Perfect form
We built a ship.	We have built a ship.
I found a saw.	I have found a saw.
Tom ate the cake.	Tom has eaten the cake.

We built the ship in the past and it is *still* there.

I found a saw in the past and it is *still* with me.

Tom ate the cake in the past and it is *still* eaten.

Perfect Form

The perfect form is created by using the present or past tense of 'have' with the past participle of the verb.
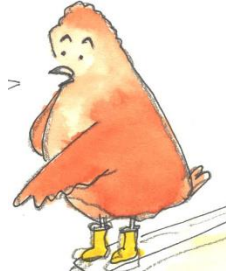
We have played.

She has asked to play too.

My sister has joined the ship.

Perfect Form
has/have + verb

Perfect form

*Change these sentences into the **simple past**, and then the **perfect form**.*

Tom loves the birds.

The fat cat eats a lot of birds.

We try to stop the cat!

Simple past	Perfect form
Tom loved the birds.	Tom has loved birds (since he was two).
The fat cat ate a lot of birds.	The fat cat has eaten a lot of birds.
We tried to stop the cat!	We have tried to stop the cat!

Explore more Hamilton Trust Learning Materials
at https://wrht.org.uk/hamilton/ .