



York College

Writing Center

Infosheets

The 12 Verb Tenses

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	<p>I <i>ate</i> pizza yesterday.</p> <p>S + V₂ + O</p>	<p>I <i>eat</i> pizza everyday.</p> <p>S + V₁ + O</p>	<p>I <i>will eat</i> pizza tomorrow.</p> <p>S + 'will' + V + O</p>
Continuous	<p>I <i>was eating</i> pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'was/were' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>am eating</i> pizza right now.</p> <p>S + 'am/is/are' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>will be eating</i> pizza when you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will be' + (V+ing) + O</p>
Perfect	<p>I <i>had eaten</i> all of the pizza when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'had' + V₃ + O</p>	<p>I <i>have eaten</i> all of the pizza.</p> <p>S + 'have/has' + V₃ + O</p>	<p>I <i>will have eaten</i> all of the pizza by the time you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will have' + V₃ + O</p>
Perfect Continuous	<p>I <i>had been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours when you arrived.</p> <p>S + 'had been' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>have been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours.</p> <p>S + 'have/has been' + (V+ing) + O</p>	<p>I <i>will have been eating</i> pizza for 2 hours when you arrive.</p> <p>S + 'will have been' + (V+ing) + O</p>

Legend: S = Subject O = Object V = Verb (V₁ = present / V₂ = past / V₃ = past participle)