Verb Tenses

Tense	Uses	Form	1st person singular	2nd person	3rd person singular	1st person plural	3rd person plural
Simple Present	present action, basic truth, future time, or general habitual action	Base form or –s form	I walk.	You walk.	He/she walks.	We walk.	They walk.
Present Progressive	activity that is in progress	am, is, or are + -ing form of verb	I am walking.	You are walking.	He/she is walking.	We are walking.	They are walking.
Present Perfect	Action that began in the past and is connected to the present	have or has + -ed form of verb (or past particple)	I have walked.	You have walked.	He/she has walked.	We have walked.	They have walked.
Present Perfect Progressive	Action that started in the past, is still occurring, and may continue into the future	have or has + been + -ing form of verb	I have been walking.	You have been walking.	He/she has been walking.	We have been walking.	They have been walking.
Simple Past	Completed action or condition	Add -ed to regular verbs	I walked.	You walked.	He/she walked.	We walked.	They walked.
Past Progressive	Past action that took place over time or was interrupted by another action	Was or were + -ing form of verb	I was walking.	You were walking.	He/she was walking.	We were walking.	They were walking.
Past Perfect	Action completed before another event in the past	Had + -ed form of verb (or past particple)	I had walked.	You had walked.	He/she had walked.	We had walked.	They had walked.
Past Perfect Progressive	continuing action in the past that has ended	Had + been+ -ing form of verb	I had been walking.	You had been walking.	He/she had been walking.	We had been walking.	They had been walking.

Continued

Simple Future	Actions or events in the future	Will or shall + base form of verb	I will walk.	You will walk.	He/she will walk.	We will walk.	They will walk.
Future Progressive	Future action that will be ongoing	Will or shall + be + -ing form of verb	I will be walking.	You will be walking.	He/she will be walking.	We will be walking.	They will be walking.
Future Perfect	Action that will be completed by a certain time in the future	Will or shall + have + -ed form of verb (or past particple)	I will have walked.	You will have walked.	He/she will have walked.	We will have walked.	They will have walked.
Future Perfect Progressive	Action that will continue until a certain time in the future	Will or shall + have + been+ -ing form of verb	I will have been walking.	You will have been walking.	He/she will have been walking.	We will have been walking.	They will have been walking.

Below are sentences that show how verbs in the various tenses can be used effectively.

A.

I was walking down the street when I heard a loud noise. I had stepped forward only a foot or so when I saw the cat. It had been fighting with another cat and was
past progressive *simple past* *past perfect* *simple past* *past perfect progressive* *simple past*

tired. "I will take you to the vet," I said to myself.
simple future *simple past*

B.

I enter the room and see a spectacular party. Joe and Mary are singing Karoke on a table and everyone else is eating and laughing. I have been wanting to let loose,
simple present *simple present* *present progressive* *present progressive* *present perfect progr*essive

so I jump up on the table and join the Karoke performance. Joe and Mary have sung at several parties this past year, but this is the first time I have done it!
simple present *simple present* *present perfect* *simple present* *present perfect*

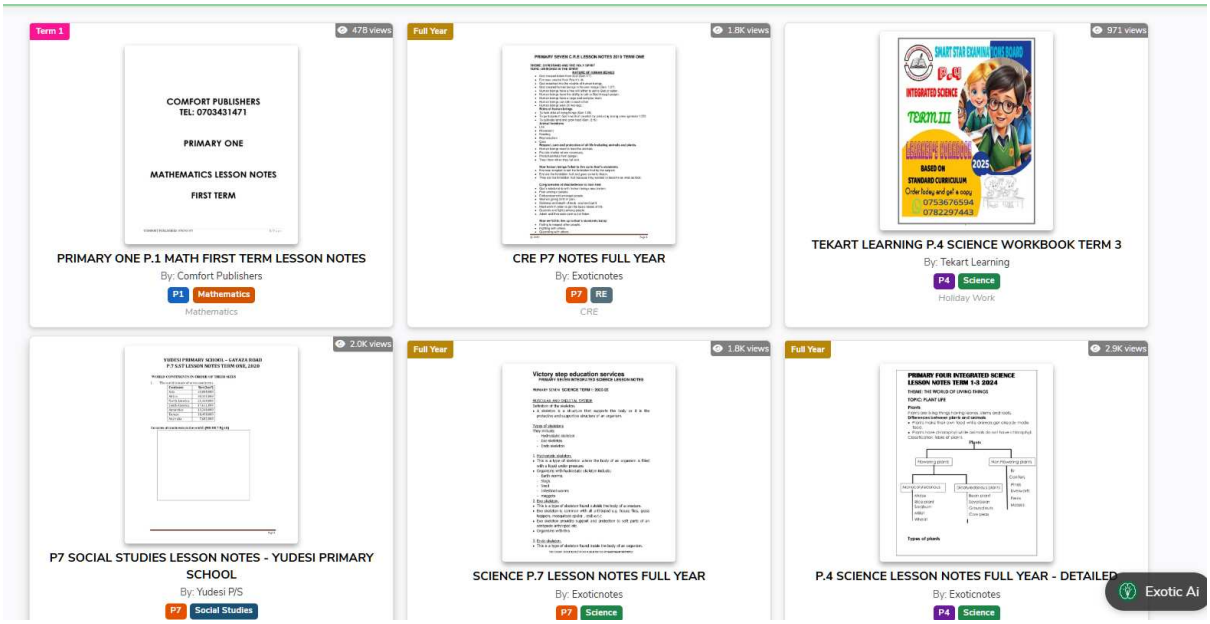
C.

You will be crying tomorrow when your football team loses! I will drive you to work every day if they beat my team. If they lose, it will have been only the 2nd
future progressive *present* *future* *present* *present* *future perfect*

time in history a team has lost 11 games in a row. If that's the case, you will have been rooting all along for a team that just can't win a game.
present perfect *future perfect progressive*

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