

PACKET 6

ERWC

PACKET 6

DAY 1

GRAMMAR - CORNELL

TASK: VERBS NOTES 1

Day 1

Identifying Complete Verb Phrases

Complete Verb Phrases

- Have a grammatical subject (I, you, it . . .)
 - *Example:* Ebert has thyroid cancer.
- Express a time (tense), completion (aspect), or duration
 - *Example:* He lost (past tense) the ability to talk after one of his surgeries.
- Can have one, two, or three helping or modal verbs
 - *Example:* Roger Ebert cannot remember the last thing he ate, or the last thing he said.
- Always have a main verb (verb that carries meaning)
 - *Example:* He has developed a kind of rudimentary sign language.

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TASK: VERBS NOTES 1

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Helping and Modal Verbs

“Be” verbs: is, am, are, was, were, been

“Have” verbs: have, has, had

“Do” verbs: do, does, did

Modals: can, will, must, should, may, might

Phrasal Modals: be going to, be able to, be supposed to, had better, ought to, have to

Infinitive and *-ing* and *-ed* Verb Forms

Verbs can also function as other parts of speech, such as nouns and adjectives. These forms are not part of the verb phrase and should not be underlined when you are identifying verb phrases.

Verbal adjective (participial adjective)

Disabled by cancer, Ebert has learned to communicate with his thumbs.

Verbal noun (gerund)

Writing an on-line journal has become Ebert's life work.

Infinitive

He encourages readers *to argue* as long as they are civil.

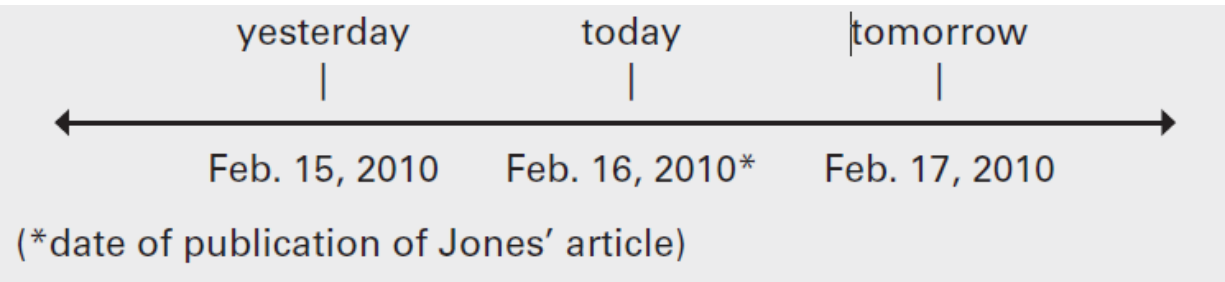
GRAMMAR

TASK: VERBS NOTES 1

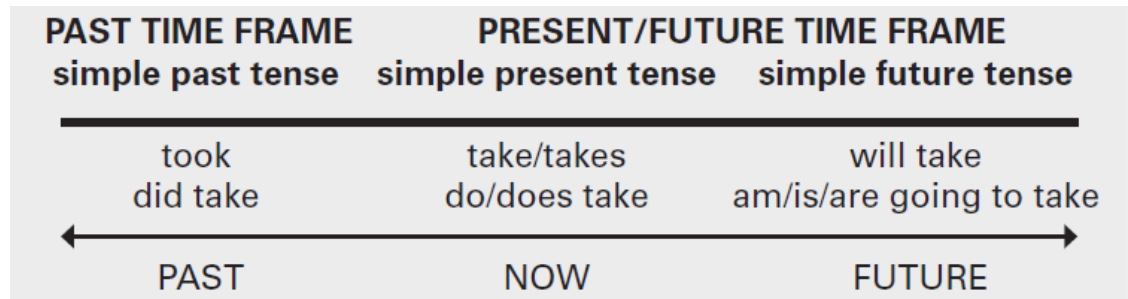
Day 1

Time and Tense

Verb tenses indicate the time period you are referring to in your writing, so any discussion of verb tense starts with a discussion of time. You can arrange time on a timeline like this.



If you think of time as a timeline, then you can visualize verb tenses as sections of the timeline. The key to understanding and using verb tenses in English is to look at them in the context of the passage they are in rather than separately in individual sentences. Within passages, they occur in two time frames, either the **past time frame** or the **present/future time frame**.



GRAMMAR

TASK: VERBS

NOTES 1

Day 1

Time Frames and Time Markers

In general, you cannot switch from the past time frame to the present/future time frame without a reason. Often a **time marker** is a signal to your reader that you are switching time frames. For example, you would use a time marker like “now” to switch from the past time frame to the present/future time frame.

Example: Ebert’s last words were not recorded. (Now) his hands do the talking.

The simple present form of a verb is used for a general truth (something that everyone probably agrees is true). We call these **generic** statements. They do not require time markers even if the surrounding text is in the past time frame.

Example: To make others less than happy is a crime.

Another case where it is permissible to switch time frames without a time marker is with a direct quotation. A direct quotation must use the tense of the original passage. At the end of the quotation, the writer must simply return to the time frame that preceded it or indicate with a time marker that a shift is occurring.

Example: (One afternoon) someone looked at him a little sadly. “There’s no need to pity me,” he wrote on a scrap of paper. “Look how happy I am.”

However, writers sometimes use the present time frame and present time markers to make their readers feel like they are present at what is being described even when the events are in the past.

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DAY 2

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TASK: VOL ACT. 2

Day 2

- Create the chart and fill it in based on the paragraph. In the last column, label the time frame of the verbs: past or present/future.

Earlier today, Ebert's publisher sent him two copies of his newest book, *Great Movies III*. Ebert turned them over in his hand. He wrote most of the book while in hospital beds. Then he put the copies on a shelf in his office. Ebert's readers have asked him to write his autobiography next, but he looks up from his laptop and shrugs at the thought. He's already written a lot about himself, and he does not want to say the same things twice. Besides, tonight he has a review to finish. He returns his attention to his laptop. Its glow makes white squares in his glasses. Music plays. Words come.

Chart goes
through #14

	Subject	Verb Phrase	Time Marker	Time Frame
1.	publisher	sent	earlier today	past
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

GRAMMAR

TASK: VOL ACT. 2

Day 2

	Subject	Verb Phrase	Time Marker	Time Frame
1.	publisher	sent	earlier today	past
2.	<i>Ebert</i>	<i>turned</i>		<i>past</i>

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TASK: VOL ACT.

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3.	<i>He</i>	<i>wrote</i>	<i>while in hospital beds</i>	<i>past</i>
4.	<i>he</i>	<i>put</i>		<i>past</i>
5.	<i>readers</i>	<i>have asked</i>	<i>(Context implies present; "next" signals future)</i>	<i>present/future</i>
6.	<i>he</i>	<i>looks</i>		<i>present/future</i>
7.		<i>shrugs</i>		<i>present/future</i>
8.	<i>he</i>	<i>'s written (contraction of has written)</i>		<i>present/future</i>
9.		<i>does want ("not" is not part of the verb phrase)</i>		<i>present/future</i>
10.	<i>he</i>	<i>has</i>	<i>tonight</i>	<i>present/future</i>
11.	<i>he</i>	<i>returns</i>		<i>present/future</i>
12.	<i>glow</i>	<i>makes</i>		<i>present/future</i>
13.	<i>music</i>	<i>plays</i>		<i>present/future</i>
14.	<i>words</i>	<i>come</i>		<i>present/future</i>

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DAY 3

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TASK: VOL ACT 3

Day 3

Using Basic and Perfect Verb Tenses in Expository Writing

Fill in the blanks in the paragraph adapted from “Roger Ebert: The Essential Man” with the correct basic and perfect tenses. Use the simple past, present, or future and the present and past perfect. Write down and circle the time markers. Check to make sure the verbs agree with the subjects.

Roger Ebert does not remember (not remember) the last thing he ate. He 1 (not remember) the last thing he drank either, or the last thing he 2 (say). Of course, those things 3 (exist); those lasts 4 (happen). They just 5 (not happen) with enough warning for him to remember. The doctors 6 (tell) him they were going to give him back his ability to eat, drink, and talk. But the doctors 7 (be) wrong. On some morning or afternoon or evening, sometime in 2006, Ebert 8 (take) his last bite and sip, and he 9 (speak) his last word.

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TASK: VOL ACT 3

Day 3

Roger Ebert does not remember (not remember) the last thing he
ate. He ^{does not remember} (not remember) the last thing he drank either, or
the last thing he said (say). Of course, those things existed (exist);
those lasts ^{happened} (happen). They just ^{did not happen} (not happen)
with enough warning for him to remember. The doctors told
(tell) him they were going to give him back his ability to eat, drink,
and talk. But the doctors were (be) wrong. On some morning or
afternoon or evening, sometime in 2006, Ebert ^{took} (take) his
last bite and sip, and he spoke (speak) his last word.

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DAY 4

GRAMMAR

TASK: VOL ACT 3 CONT'

Using Basic and Perfect Verb Tenses in Expository Writing

Fill in the blanks in the paragraph adapted from “Roger Ebert: The Essential Man” with the correct basic and perfect tenses. Use the simple past, present, or future and the present and past perfect. Write down and circle the time markers. Check to make sure the verbs agree with the subjects.

Now his hands _____ 1 _____ (do) the talking. They _____ 2 _____ (be) delicate and long-fingered. He _____ 3 _____ (wear) his wedding ring on the middle finger of his left hand. He _____ 4 _____ (lose) so much weight since he and Chaz were married in 1992 that it _____ 5 _____ (not stay) where it belongs, especially now his hands _____ 6 _____ (be) so busy. He _____ 7 _____ (develop) a rudimentary kind of sign language. If he _____ 8 _____ (touch) his hand over his heart, it _____ 9 _____ (mean) he’s telling the truth. Sometimes, when he _____ 10 _____ (be) outside wearing gloves, he _____ 11 _____ (have) to draw letters with his fingers on his palm. That _____ 12 _____ (be) his last resort.

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TASK: VOL ACT 3 CONT'

Now his hands do (do) the talking. They are (be) delicate and long-fingered. He wears (wear) his wedding ring on the middle finger of his left hand. He has lost (lose) so much weight since he and Chaz were married in 1992 that it will not stay (not stay) where it belongs, especially now his hands are (be) so busy. He has developed (develop) a rudimentary kind of sign language. If he touches (touch) his hand over his heart, it means (mean) he's telling the truth. Sometimes, when he is (be) outside wearing gloves, he has (have) to draw letters with his fingers on his palm. That is (be) his last resort.