Present, Past, and Future Tenses

Verbs can show when an action happens. This is called tense. Different verb tenses have different forms. Many present tense verbs end in -s. Form the past tense of many verbs by adding -ed. Add the helping verb will to a verb to make it a future tense verb.

| Present Tense | A whale stays near the beach. |
| Past Tense | The whale jumped out of the water. |
| Future Tense | The other whales will jump out soon. |

- When a verb ends with e, drop the e before adding -ed: glide → glided
- When a one-syllable verb ends with one vowel followed by one consonant, double the final consonant before adding -ed: shop → shopped
- When a verb ends with a consonant followed by y, change the y to i before adding -ed: hurry → hurried

Directions Tell the tense of the underlined verb in each sentence. Write present, past, or future.

1. I like the humpback whales. _____________
2. You will enjoy the whales’ music. _____________
3. Those whales traveled from the Arctic Ocean. _____________
4. They will return next year. _____________

Directions Write the verb in ( ) that correctly completes each sentence.

5. Last year Sammy’s class (learn, learned) about whales. ______________
6. Whales cannot breathe underwater, so they (jump, jumped) out of the water for air. ______________
7. Each time a mother whale gives birth, she (stays, stayed) close to the baby for a year. ______________
8. After a year, the baby (cared, will care) for itself. ______________

Home Activity Your child learned about present, past, and future tenses. Ask your child to make up a sentence about something he or she saw on the way home from school and identify the tense of the sentence’s verb.
Present, Past, and Future Tenses

Directions Choose a verb from the word bank to replace each underlined verb. Write the sentence.

- chatter
- spotted
- sails
- sprays

1. A boat moves slowly out onto the ocean.

2. The people on the boat talk excitedly.

3. Last week the people on the boat watched many whales.

4. Suddenly, a spout of water jumps out of the ocean.

Directions Write three sentences about whales. Use present tense in one sentence, past tense in one sentence, and future tense in one sentence.

Home Activity Your child learned how to use present, past, and future tenses in writing. Ask your child to write three sentences about an after-school activity using a different tense in each sentence. Have your child identify the tense of each sentence.
Present, Past, and Future Tenses

Directions  Mark the letter of the verb that completes each sentence. Use the tense in ( ).

1. We ___ for whales in the ocean. (future)
   A searched
   B will search
   C search
   D searches

2. Many whales ___ in cold water. (present)
   A lived
   B will live
   C live
   D living

3. They ___ to warm water before winter. (future)
   A travel
   B traveling
   C traveled
   D will travel

4. Whales ___ in small groups. (present)
   A stay
   B stays
   C stayed
   D will stay

5. Those whales ___ a family. (past)
   A form
   B formed
   C forming
   D will form

6. They ___ for their babies. (past)
   A care
   B will care
   C cared
   D caring

7. That baby whale ___ 2 tons. (present)
   A weighs
   B weighed
   C will weigh
   D weighing

8. Its size ___ you. (future)
   A will amaze
   B amazed
   C amazes
   D amazing

9. In the past, people ___ whales. (past)
   A hunt
   B hunting
   C hunts
   D hunted

10. Most people ___ at whales today. (present)
    A look
    B will look
    C looking
    D looks

Home Activity  Your child prepared for taking tests on present, past, and future tenses. Point out a sentence in a book you are reading together. Have your child tell whether the sentence is in present, past, or future tense.
Present, Past, and Future Tenses

Directions Tell the tense of the underlined verb in each sentence. Write present, past, or future.

1. A whale lives at the sea park. _________

2. It floats under the water. _________

3. The whale amazed its trainers. _________

4. People will cheer the clever whale. _________

Directions Choose a verb from the list to replace each underlined word or words. Change each verb to the correct tense. Write the sentence.

view leap enjoy

5. A dolphin will jump out of the water.


7. People like dolphins.

Directions Write a sentence about an animal in a sea park. Underline the verb. Tell whether it is present, past, or future tense.

Home Activity Your child reviewed present, past, and future tenses. Say a sentence about the community you live in. Ask your child to identify the verb and the verb tense in your sentence.