

## 1.4a The Five Forms of the Main Verb

**key words:** verb, tense, aspect, progressive, perfect

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1e, Form and use the simple (e.g., *I walked; I walk; I will walk*) verb tenses.

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/3/1/e>

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1b, Form and use the progressive (e.g., *I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking*) verb tenses. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/4/1/b>

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.1b Form and use the perfect (e.g., *I had walked; I have walked; I will have walked*) verb tenses. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/5/1/b>

---

Every verb has five forms: infinitive, past tense, present tense, past participle, present participle. Here are two examples.

infinitive:	<i>(to) talk</i>
past tense:	<i>talked</i>
present tense:	<i>(he/she/it) talks, (I/you/we/they) talk</i>
past participle:	<i>(has/have) talked</i>
present participle:	<i>(am/is/are) talking</i>

infinitive:	<i>to sing</i>
past tense:	<i>sang</i>
present tense:	<i>(he/she/it) sings, (I/you/we/they) sing</i>
past participle:	<i>(has/have) sung</i>
present participle:	<i>(am/is/are) singing</i>

**Exercise:** Come up with verbs and put them into the frames below to come up with the five forms for each verb. Where is there overlap?

infinitive:	I really want to _____ today.
present tense:	She _____ on most days.
past tense:	He _____ yesterday.
present participle:	They are/were _____ at noon.
past participle:	We have/had already _____ before they arrived.

[Teacher notes: You may want to use the “verb form chart” on the following page or create your own. See comments on identifying present and on dialectal variation in Lesson 1.4d. See more on **progressive and perfect aspects** in Lesson 1.4f and 1.4g.]

### Examples of the Five Verb Forms

Every verb has these five forms.

<b>Infinitive</b>	(to) talk	(to) take	(to) sing	(to) buy	(to) cut
<b>Present tense</b>	talk(s)	take(s)	sing(s)	buy(s)	cut(s)
<b>Past tense</b>	talked	took	sang	bought	cut
<b>Present participle</b> (with form of <i>be</i> )	talking	taking	singing	buying	cutting
<b>Past participle</b> (with form of <i>have</i> )	talked	taken	sung	bought	cut