Verb Tenses

Def.: The part of speech that expresses existence, action, or occurrence in most languages.

→ Present tense: use this to show action that is occurring now.
   Example: I work in the science lab.

→ Past tense: use this to show action that was completed in the past.
   Example: Last year, I worked in the science lab.

→ Future tense: use this to show action that is expected to occur in the future.
   Example: I will work in the science lab after I graduate.

→ Present Perfect tense: use this to show action that started in the past and is continuing or linked to the present.
   *place the helping verb has or have before the past participle form of the verb.
   Example: I have been an avid skier for most of my life.

→ Past Perfect tense: use this to show action that was completed before another past action.
   *place the helping verb had before the past participle form of the verb.
   Example: Before my injury, I had been an avid skier for most of my life.

→ Future Perfect tense: use this to show action that will be completed before another future action.
   *place will have before the past participle form of the verb.
   Example: I will have worked for this company for twenty-five years when I retire.

→ Present Progressive tense: use this to show an action that is occurring now and is continuing.
   *place the helping verb is, am, are, was, were, or be before the present participle.
   Example: I am working as hard as I can to finish this test.

→ Past Progressive tense: use this to show a continuing action that occurred in the past.
   *place the helping verb was or were before the present participle.
   Example: I was working hard to complete the test.

→ Future Progressive tense: use this to show a continuing future action.
   *place the helping verb will be before the present participle.
   Example: I will be working hard on the test tomorrow.