

Progressive and Emphatic Forms

Teaching

The **progressive form** of a verb describes an ongoing action or state of being. Each of the six tenses has a progressive form.

Progressive Tenses		
Tense	Describes an action or state of being ...	Example
Present	in progress	Rescue teams are hurrying to the disaster area.
Past	ongoing in the past	Families were searching all day for the missing.
Future	ongoing in the future	The governor will be touring the scene soon.
Present Perfect	that started in the past and continues in the present	Volunteers have been searching the rubble for survivors.
Past Perfect	interrupted by another past action	Before this tremor, scientists had been predicting possible activity along the fault.
Future Perfect	that will take place by a specific future time	By noon, some people will have been trapped for a full two days.

The **emphatic form** of a verb (*do + verb*) makes the verb more forceful. This form has only two tenses, present (using *do*) and past (using *did*).

These rescue teams **do seem** more organized than teams in other disasters.

Identifying Verb Tenses

Underline every verb in the progressive form once. Underline any verb in the emphatic form twice. On the line to the right, name the form of each underlined verb.

EXAMPLE Yes, I did say that the earth was shaking for several minutes. *past*
emph, past prog

- The scientists are studying the destruction from the earthquake to determine which buildings are the most earthquake resilient. _____
- We had been sleeping when we were awoken by the earthquake. _____
- The reporter has been talking all morning about the damage caused by the quake. _____
- The principal did say that we will be having an earthquake drill before the end of the week. _____
- After the hurricane hit the island, the rain was rushing down the hillsides. _____
- Many people have been living in the streets for the past few days because they were afraid to go back home. _____
- At the end of the month, the team will have been inspecting the city's buildings for one year. _____
- The president does want to meet the survivors. _____
- The tsunami will be hitting the coastline in only a few moments. _____
- Seismologists are analyzing the data to find out the earthquake's magnitude. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Verb Tenses

Underline each progressive and emphatic verb form in these sentences. On the line to the right, name the form of each underlined verb.

1. I did see the movie you were talking about. _____
2. Before he gave the presentation, the speaker had been reading over his notes. _____
3. By the time my friend gets here, she will have been traveling for eight hours. _____
4. The hikers did take a break after they had been hiking for four hours. _____
5. The television does make the actress appear taller. _____
6. My boss has been working with the Senator since the election. _____
7. The puppies had been chewing on the shoes before they were caught. _____
8. The leaves will be changing colors during the autumn. _____
9. Bailey and Nikki have been going to the parade every year. _____
10. Everyone is eating the chocolate chip cookies Mom made. _____

B. Using Verb Tenses

Underline the verb form in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

1. Scientists (had researched, have been researching) ways to predict earthquakes.
2. The giant wave (is traveling, will have been traveling) for almost half an hour before it strikes.
3. Actually, the islands (did receive, are receiving) a warning of the destructive tsunami, but there was little time to get to safety.
4. Clearly the school (will have been instructing, does instruct) their students on how to react in an emergency.
5. The emergency supplies of water and food (do arrive, will be arriving) at the damage site tomorrow.
6. Due to the landslide, the houses (have been sliding, are sliding) downhill all day.
7. Water pipes (have been remaining, did remain) intact throughout the earthquake.
8. In fact, the helicopter crew (did make, was making) some miraculous rescues after the landslide.
9. Currently, residents (have been rushing, are rushing) home to find out which apartments collapsed.
10. Damage (does appear, is appearing) to be less here than closer to the epicenter.

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Application

Using Verb Tenses Effectively

The purpose of the following editorial is to condemn lax enforcement of building codes, which caused many apartment buildings to collapse during an earthquake, resulting in many deaths. However, because of an ineffective use of verbs, the editorial does not have a forceful effect. Almost all the verbs are in simple tenses. Rewrite the editorial, combining sentences and using a variety of verb forms, including perfect, progressive, and emphatic forms. Use the facts as presented in the original editorial.

Last week an earthquake struck our city. Everyone who lives here knows about the danger of quakes in the area. Other earthquakes struck our city before. In the past, large sections of the city were destroyed. When those building went up, nobody knew much about making buildings earthquake-proof. But scientists and engineers researched the problem. They found better building methods. Many homes, offices, and apartment buildings were constructed using the improved methods. Those buildings survived last week's quake. According to law, all contractors should use the improved methods. The government hired inspectors, and the inspectors collected their pay. But did they work? Some buildings that fell down were next to buildings that showed little damage. Why? Look at the materials that lie in the fallen buildings. Even a child can see how flimsy the steel girders are. Where were the inspectors? Why haven't they done their job?

CHAPTER 4