

Progressive and Emphatic Forms

The **progressive form** of a verb expresses an event in progress. Each of the six tenses has a progressive form.

Progressive Forms

Tense	Shows an event that	Example
Present	is in progress	The temperature is falling sharply.
Past	was in progress	Wind speeds were rising all morning.
Future	will be in progress	Power crews will be watching for downed wires.
Present Perfect	began in the past and is continuing in the present	The weather bureau has been tracking the storm for hours.
Past Perfect	was ongoing and was interrupted by another past action	Before buying the newest equipment, the bureau had been using less efficient computers.
Future Perfect	will be ongoing and will have taken place by a specified future action	By the end of this year, the local office of the National Weather Service will have been recording data about this area for 100 years.

The **emphatic form** of a verb makes the verb more forceful. This form has only two tenses, present and past, made by adding *do* or *did* to the first principal part of the verb.

These gauges **do identify** minute changes in humidity.

Identifying Verb Forms

Underline every verb in the progressive form with one underscore. Underline twice any verb in the emphatic form. On the line to the right, name the form of each underlined verb. (Abbreviate *progressive* as **prog** and *emphatic* as **emph**.)

EXAMPLE The weather report that I was listening to did forecast snow. *past prog, past emph*

1. People have been trying to forecast the weather for many thousands of years. _____
2. Before D-Day, Allied commanders had been worrying about the effect of bad weather on the invasion. _____
3. Even without a definite forecast, General Eisenhower did decide on action. _____
4. Currently, weather researchers are using a wide range of instruments. _____
5. By 2020, the United States will have been operating some form of weather service for 150 years. _____
6. The National Weather Service will be issuing an Emergency Warning once the storm does come close to land. _____
7. Napoleon's troops had been invading Russia when the cold winter weather forced them to retreat. _____
8. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite does provide crucial information for weather forecasters. _____
9. The meteorology class was watching the weather patterns for their extra-credit assignment. _____
10. Many scientists do believe that the burning of fossil fuels is causing the temperature to rise worldwide. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Verb Forms

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

1. The barometer was falling all afternoon as the storm approached. _____
2. Air molecules are moving constantly, and the measure of their speed is called temperature. _____
3. The greenhouse effect has been occurring on Earth for billions of years. _____
4. The Coriolis Force does affect the winds and currents around the earth. _____
5. The waves had been pounding the beach's breaker wall for hours before the waters finally broke through. _____
6. Although many people believe the Bermuda Triangle is a paranormal area, scientists did conclude that dangerous weather explains many of its mysteries. _____
7. The meteorologist says our area will be experiencing a patch of strong thunderstorms during the evening. _____
8. By nightfall, the snow will have been falling for eight hours. _____
9. Dew was forming on the grass during the night because the cool air became saturated with water vapor. _____
10. Balloons have been helping meteorologists track and predict weather for decades. _____

B. Using Verb Forms

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

1. The class (will be visiting, will have been visiting) the ship *Constitution* tomorrow.
2. Until we gave up and called a plumber, my mother and I (have been trying, had been trying) to repair the faucet for hours.
3. From this summer until next spring, high school seniors (will be applying, will apply) to colleges.
4. Next week the school clerk (will be working, will have been working) here 30 years.
5. Jason (will be celebrating, will have been celebrating) his election victory soon.
6. Libraries (have been storing, had been storing) information long before computers were invented.
7. Several people (are eating, were eating) lunch when the fire alarm sounded.
8. During the last few winters, herds of deer (had been feeding, have been feeding) on tree bark.
9. Gerald (comes, has been coming) to the meetings for at least six years.
10. Maureen (will take, will be taking) the bus with you every day from now on.

Lesson 3

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Application

Using Verb Tenses Effectively

In the following essay, the writer imagines being a historian of the 2100s looking back at the "primitive" weather forecasting methods of the early 2000s. The composition compares our current techniques with the imaginary state of forecasting 100 years in the future. However, because of inaccurate verb use, the essay is difficult to understand. Rewrite it on the lines below, making any changes that will improve the paragraph, giving special attention to verb tenses.

Weather forecasting methods will be improving drastically in the last 100 years. Now, in the 2100s, scientists had been calculating exactly how much precipitation a storm will produce. Until PMP (Precipitation Measurement Program) was invented, meteorologists are predicting precipitation amounts using simple mathematical equations. Amazingly, by the turn of the next century, we have been warning people about tornadoes a whole day in advance for almost 50 years. In the first half of the 2000s, before the Tornado Simulator was invented, tornado watchers will have been risking their lives in order to learn more. In a few years, meteorologists were predicting the weather almost two weeks in advance. Although scientific advances in the 20th and 21st centuries were great, meteorologists of that era have been making accurate forecasts for only two to three days in advance at best.
