Verbs show an action or a state of being. The verb tense places the verb in time. The three major tenses verbs can show are past, present, and future. Sometimes it helps kids to think of the past as “yesterday,” the present as “today,” and the future as “tomorrow.” Each verb tense has several options that allow you to be precise about what you mean. Let’s look at the verb, “to ride.”

Your ear can probably tell which verb tense “sounds right” in a sentence. Choose the correct tense of the verb to best complete each sentence below.

1. Jim and Susan _________________________ to school tomorrow.
   (went/will go)
2. Sam sits down and ______________________ in his notebook.
   (writess/rote)
3. The energetic puppy sure ________________ happy yesterday!
   (is/was)
4. Mrs. Smith _________________ a song in the talent show next month.
   (sang/will sing)
5. They ___________________ on the phone for three hours last night.
   (talk/talked)
6. My baby sister ________________ for the first time yesterday!
   (speaks/spoke)
7. Uncle Scott ____________________ me a new video game tomorrow.
   (gave/will give)
8. The teacher ___________________ to her students right now.
   (read/is reading)

Next to each verb, write “past tense,” “present tense,” or “future tense”.

9. plays  ________________  10. were  ________________
11. painted  ________________  12. is smiling  ________________
13. write  ________________  14. drew  ________________
15. will drive  ________________  16. are  ________________
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I rode my bicycle.</td>
<td>I ride my bicycle.</td>
<td>I will ride my bicycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was riding my bicycle.</td>
<td>I am riding my bicycle.</td>
<td>I will be riding my bicycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had been riding my bicycle.</td>
<td>I have been riding my bicycle.</td>
<td>I am going to ride my bicycle.</td>
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    present tense        past tense

15. will drive ________________ 16. are ________________
    future tense         present tense