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| **Simple tenses** | **Example** | **Perfect tenses** | **Example** |
| **Past** – when an action took place at a specific time and is now finished.**Present** – when an action is taking place now.**Future** – when an action will take place in the future. | I walked into the monster’s cave.I walk into the monster’s cave.I will walk into the monster’s cave. | **Past perfect** – is used to say when an action was completed in the past. The past tense of the verb ‘to have’ + past participle of verb.**Present perfect** – is used to say when:An action has recently finished using ‘just’.An action that has started in the past and is still going.The time period has not finished.When the time period is not important or known.The action is repeated in a period between the past and now.The present tense of the verb ‘to have’ + past participle of verb.**Future perfect –** is used to say when an action will have been completed in the future.The future tense of the verb ‘to have’ + past participle of verb. | I had walked in the monster’s cave. I have just walked in the monster’s cave.I have worked in the bank for five years.I have not seen her today.I have studied French, Russian and German.I have eaten at that restaurant several times.I will have walked in the monster’s cave. |
| **Progressive tenses** | **Example** |
| **Past progressive** – used for a continuous action in the past.The past tense of ‘to be’ + present participle of the verb (verb ends in –ing). **Present progressive** – used for an action that is happening at the moment of speaking.The present tense of ‘to be’ + present participle of the verb (verb ends in –ing).**Future progressive** – used for an action that will be continuing in the future. The future tense of ‘to be’ + present participle of the verb (verb ends in –ing). | I was walking in the monster’s cave.He/She was…You/We/They were…I am walking in the monster’s cave.He/She is…You/We/They are…I will be walking in the monster’s cave.He/She will be…You/We/They will be… |

Birklands Primary School – Knowledge Organiser: Tenses