

Have, has, or had + past participle (perfect tenses)

After the helping verb *have*, *has*, or *had*, use the past participle to form one of the perfect tenses. Past participles usually end in *-ed*, *-d*, *-en*, *-n*, or *-t*.

- ▶ On cold nights many churches in the city have ~~offer~~^{offered} shelter to the homeless.
- ▶ An-Mei has not ~~speaking~~^{spoken} Chinese since she was a young child.

The helping verb *have* is sometimes preceded by a modal helping verb such as *will*: *By nightfall, we will have driven five hundred miles.*

Form of be + present participle (progressive forms)

After the helping verb *be*, *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, or *been*, use the present participle to express a continuing action.

- ▶ Carlos is ~~build~~^{building} his house on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.
- ▶ Uncle Roy was ~~driven~~^{driving} a brand-new Hummer.

The helping verb *be* must be preceded by a modal (*can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *shall*, *should*, *will*, or *would*): *Edith will be going to Germany soon.* The helping verb *been* must be preceded by *have*, *has*, or *had*: *Andy has been studying English for five years.*

CAUTION: Certain verbs are not normally used in the progressive sense in English. In general, these verbs express a state of being or mental activity, not a dynamic action. Common examples are *appear*, *believe*, *belong*, *contain*, *have*, *hear*, *know*, *like*, *need*, *see*, *seem*, *taste*, *think*, *understand*, and *want*.

- ▶ I ~~am wanting~~^{want} to see August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*.

Some of these verbs, however, have special uses in which progressive forms are normal: *We are thinking about going to the Bahamas.* You will need to make a note of exceptions as you encounter them.

Form of be + past participle (passive voice)

When a sentence is written in the passive voice, the subject receives the action instead of doing it: *Melissa was given a special award.*

To form the passive voice, use *be*, *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, *being*, or *been* followed by a past participle (usually ending in *-ed*, *-d*, *-en*, *-n*, or *-t*).

- ▶ *Dreaming in Cuban* was ~~write~~^{written} by Cristina García.
- ▶ The scientists were ~~honor~~^{honored} for their work with dolphins.

(continued)

When the helping verb is *be*, *being*, or *been*, it must be preceded by another helping verb. *Be* must be preceded by a modal such as *will*: *Senator Dixon will be defeated*. *Being* must be preceded by *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, or *were*: *The child was being teased*. *Been* must be preceded by *have*, *has*, or *had*: *I have been invited to a party*.

CAUTION: Although they may seem to have passive meanings, verbs such as *occur*, *happen*, *sleep*, *die*, and *fall* may not be used to form the passive voice because they are intransitive. Only transitive verbs, those that take direct objects, may be used to form the passive voice.

- ▶ The earthquake ~~was~~ occurred last Wednesday night.