

# Present, Past, and Future Tenses

Verbs can show when an action happens. This is called **tense**. Different verb tenses have different forms. Many present-tense verbs end in *-s*. Form the past tense of many verbs by adding *-ed*. Add the helping verb *will* to a verb to make it a future-tense verb.

**Present Tense** A fish jumps out of the pond.

**Past Tense** The boy pulled the fish in on a line.

**Future Tense** The boy will toss the fish back into the water.

- When a verb ends with *e*, drop the *e* before adding *-ed*: *close*     *closed*
- When a one-syllable verb ends with one vowel followed by one consonant, double the final consonant before adding *-ed*: *hop*     *hopped*
- When a verb ends with a consonant followed by *y*, change the *y* to *i* before adding *-ed*: *cry*     *cried*

**Directions** Tell the tense of the underlined verb in each sentence. Write *present*, *past*, or *future*.

1. A whale calls to other whales.
2. The whale will use the sound's echo.
3. A whale's flukes move up and down.
4. The whale will glide through the water.
5. The whale breathed through the blowhole on its head.
6. Ice trapped the whales in the bay.

present  
future  
present  
future  
past  
past

**Directions** Choose the verb in ( ) that completes each sentence in the given tense. Write the sentence.

7. Tough skin (covers, will cover) the whale's body. (present)

Tough skin covers the whale's body.

8. The whale (slips, will slip) through water. (future)

The whale will slip through water.