

Skerre by Doug Ball

Verbs	Imperative	Perfective
drink	tsari	tsarin
eat	hos	hosin
bite	take	take:n
swim	tehasa	tehasa:n
sit	?ire:	?ire:jin
ask	tсен	tсенin



TENSE

Tense situates an action/
event some place in time.

He will eat.

He eats.

He ate.

Future
Present
Past

Non-Past Past

Matkustan Helsinkiin.
“I travel to Helsinki.”

Matkustan Helsinkiin ensi
kuussa.

“I will travel to Helsinki next
month.”

Matkustan Helsinkiin ensi
kuussa.

“I travel to Helsinki next
month.”

Matkustin Helsinkiin.
“I traveled to Helsinki.”

I eat bagels.
I'm eating bagels.

So I walk into this store and
I go up to the counter and
this guy says to me, “You
going to offer me a bagel or
what?”

I eat.
I ate.
I will eat.

Futures really actually
predictive/prospective.

Right now I am eating and
watching TV.

Yesterday I ate and watched
TV.

?? Tomorrow I eat-FUT and
watch-FUT TV.

Humans can't predict the future. Can't talk about it like we can the present or the past.

Base Tense → Actual Use

Restrict the number of actual forms you have. Use them to their utmost before creating a new one.

Hodiernal: Done something
earlier in the day as
opposed to earlier than that.

**Narrative/Ancient: Talking
about things that happened
in the distant past.**

Immediate Future: To be
about to do something.

Immediate Past: To just have done something (e.g. “I just ate”).

EVOLVING TENSE

Start with past vs. non-past
if you're doing tense.

Two different routes:
(1) Non-past formed from
reduplication/vowel
lengthening.

Idea is it emphasizes the ongoing nature of the activity.

(2) Past formed from
reduplication/vowel
lengthening.

Idea is it emphasizes the remoteness of the activity (also makes it different from “usual”, which is non-past).

Yes, these are exact opposites. Language is weird.

Other sources for past tense: finish, complete, put down, set down, stop, cease.

Still other sources for past tense: yesterday, then, long time, other temporal expression referring to past.

Or for present tense: now,
this, here, today, etc.

LOCATION IS TIME

Near = close to the present

Far = far from the present

Words like “today” and
“yesterday” and “tomorrow”
sometimes basic.

Other tenses derived in
apposition to your first
distinction.

Future

I am going to leave.

Je vais sortir.

Voy a salir.

Future

yo comeré > comere he >
comedere habeo “I have to
eat.”

Future

I will leave. (< desire)

I shall leave. (< obligation)

Future
I am to visit Finland this
summer.

Future
Desire
Obligation
Motion Towards
Temporal Adverb

Other Ones
Similar things. Depends on
your other tenses.

Shiväisith

V Imperfect ~ V: Perfect
-(a)n Past Tense

Shiväisith

	Non-Past	Past
Imperfect	Present	Past Imperfect
Perfect	???	Perfect

Shiväisith

	Non-Past	Past
Imperfect	Present	Past Imperfect
Perfect	Hodiernal	Perfect

Shiväisith
Vurar vathe.
“I see him (now).”

Shiväisith
Vuurinar vathe.

“I saw him (in the past).”

Shiväisith
Vuurir vathe.

“I saw him (at some point in
time that’s still relevant, e.g.
this morning).”

Tonight
(1) MA5
**(2) Come up with a new
metaphor (see site for
details)!**