

Conjugating Regular Verbs (Example: *To Argue*)

1. THE PRESENT TENSE				
	SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
PURPOSE	Describes an action that occurs regularly or right now.	Describes an action that is in progress.	Describes an action during a time that has not finished/ a past action directly related to the present.	Describes an incomplete action that began in the past but is ongoing in the present.
SENTENCE STRUCTURE	Subject (Noun) + Verb Infinitive.	Subject (Noun) + To Be (Present) + Present Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Present) + Past Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Present) + To Be (Past Participle) + Present Participle.
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I argue. ▪ You (s.) argue. ▪ He/she argues. ▪ It argues. ▪ We argue. ▪ You (pl.) argue. ▪ They argue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I am arguing. ▪ You (s.) are arguing. ▪ He/she is arguing. ▪ It is arguing. ▪ We are arguing. ▪ You (pl.) are arguing. ▪ They are arguing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I have argued. ▪ You (s.) have argued. ▪ He/she has argued. ▪ It has argued. ▪ We have argued. ▪ You (pl.) have argued. ▪ They have argued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I have been arguing. ▪ You (s.) have been arguing. ▪ He/she has been arguing. ▪ It has been arguing. ▪ We have been arguing. ▪ You (pl.) have been arguing. ▪ They have been arguing.

NOTE: For further clarity, please see the UCD Writing Centre's handouts on *Introduction to Verbs and Tenses* and *Regular Verbs vs. Irregular Verbs*.

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2. THE PAST TENSE				
	SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
PURPOSE	Describes an action that happened in the past.	Describes an action that was ongoing in the past.	Describes an action that was completed in the past (often before another action).	Describes an action that was ongoing during a specific time in the past, which has now ceased.
SENTENCE STRUCTURE	Subject (Noun) + Verb (Past).	Subject (Noun) + To Be (Past) + Present Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Past) + Past Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Past) + To Be (Past Participle) + Present Participle.
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I argued. ▪ You (s.) argued. ▪ He/she argued. ▪ It argued. ▪ We argued. ▪ You (pl.) argued. ▪ They argued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I was arguing. ▪ You (s.) were arguing. ▪ He/she was arguing. ▪ It was arguing. ▪ We were arguing. ▪ You (pl.) were arguing. ▪ They were arguing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I had argued. ▪ You (s.) had argued. ▪ He/she had argued. ▪ It had argued. ▪ We had argued. ▪ You (pl.) had argued. ▪ They had argued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I had been arguing. ▪ You (s.) had been arguing. ▪ He/she had been arguing. ▪ It had been arguing. ▪ We had been arguing. ▪ You (pl.) had been arguing. ▪ They had been arguing.

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3. THE FUTURE TENSE				
	SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONTINUOUS
PURPOSE	Describes an action that will occur in the future.	Describes an action that will be ongoing in the future.	Describes an action that will be completed in the future (often before a specific point).	Describes an action that will be ongoing until a specific time in the future.
SENTENCE STRUCTURE	Subject (Noun) + To Will (Modal Verb) + Verb Infinitive.	Subject (Noun) + To Be (Future) + Present Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Future) + Past Participle.	Subject (Noun) + To Have (Future) + To Be (Past Participle) + Present Participle.
EXAMPLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I will argue. ▪ You (s.) will argue. ▪ He/she will argue. ▪ It will argue. ▪ We will argue. ▪ You (pl.) will argue. ▪ They will argue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I will be arguing. ▪ You (s.) will be arguing. ▪ He/she will be arguing. ▪ It will be arguing. ▪ We will be arguing. ▪ You (pl.) will be arguing. ▪ They will be arguing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I will have argued. ▪ You (s.) will have argued. ▪ He/she will have argued. ▪ It will have argued. ▪ We will have argued. ▪ You (pl.) will have argued. ▪ They will have argued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I will have been arguing. ▪ You (s.) will have been arguing. ▪ He/she will have been arguing. ▪ It will have been arguing. ▪ We will have been arguing. ▪ You (pl.) will have been arguing. ▪ They will have been arguing.

NOTE: For further clarity, please see the UCD Writing Centre's handouts on *Introduction to Verbs and Tenses* and *Regular Verbs vs. Irregular Verbs*.