VERB TENSES

The **present tense** shows action or state of being in the present.

*The race starts now.*  
*She is with me now.*

The **present perfect tense** shows action or state of being which began in the past but continues into the present.

*As of now, they have run ten miles.*  
*She has been ill.*

The **past tense** indicates an action or state of being which began and ended in the past.

*He walked home last night.*  
*She was ill.*

The **past perfect tense** shows an action or state of being that began in the past and ended at some later time in the past.

*Mary realized that she had seen him before.*  
*Until her marriage, Elizabeth had been lonely.*

The **future tense** specifies a future action or state of being.

*Susan will marry in June.*  
*He is going to be happy then.*

The **future perfect tense** indicates an action or state of being that will be completed at a fairly specific time.

*By this time next year, he will have been her husband for six months.*

**PRACTICE WITH VERB TENSES:** Identify the tense of each underlined verb:  
(A) present, (B) present perfect, (C) past, (D) past perfect, (E) future or future perfect

1. The children **play** in the dirty streets every day.  
2. How long **have you been** in jail?  
3. After his father **had sent** him the check, Ray quit his job.  
4. He has assured us that he **is going to pay** the bill.  
5. After lunch they **went** swimming.  
6. If the general's new offensive succeeds, we **shall have won** the war by fall.  
7. Before going into politics, he **had** little success at anything.  
8. Sherry has worked there since April.

Answers: 1-A; 2-B; 3-D; 4-E; 5-C; 6-E; 7-C; 8-B