

Mr. Misenheimer's Garden (page 210)**Grammar SkillBuilder: The Past and Present Perfect Tenses**

Key Concept: Verb tenses show the time of an action or condition. Using the correct verb tense helps writers convey their meaning clearly.

Past Tense

The **past tense** conveys that an action took place in the past or that a condition existed in the past.

Examples: Kuralt first **visited** the garden in 1972.
Mr. Misenheimer **was** 83 years old at the time of Kuralt's visit.

Present Perfect Tense

The **present perfect tense** conveys that an action that began in the past is continuing in the present.

Example: Visitors **have enjoyed** the beauty of the garden since it was created.

The present perfect tense also may convey that an action occurred at some unspecified time in the past.

Example: He **has driven** down many back roads.

Activity

For each sentence, identify the tense of the underlined verb as either past or present perfect. If the verb is past, rewrite the sentence using the present perfect tense. If the verb is present perfect, rewrite the sentence using the past tense.

1. I wondered what would happen to the garden.
2. Haeja learned a great deal from the old man.
3. Flowers have been placed on the picnic tables.
4. The dogwoods were in bloom.
5. She has dreamed of living in the country.
6. Her wedding took place in the garden.
7. They have treated her as if she was their own daughter.
8. He has tried to give the land to the government.
9. He left the land to her in his will.
10. She hired a caretaker to help her with the work.