CLC Ch 6 Verb Tenses nōmen\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Section\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Verb: action word, something you do

* Tense: when the verb is being done
  + Past/present/future

We already know the present tense.

In CLC Chapter 6, we are learning two past tenses: the imperfect tense and the perfect tense.

Why are they called the “imperfect” and “perfect” tenses?

The English word “perfect” comes from the Latin word “*perficio.” Perficio* is a Latin word meaning *I complete, I finish, I do thoroughly. Perficio* is actually made up of two separate Latin words: *per* (meaning *through*), and *facio* (meaning *I do*). So, the word literally means *I do something all the way through.*

So, if the verb is in the perfect tense, then the action has already been completed in the past.

If the verb is in the imperfect tense, then the action was happening in the past, but it is not indicated whether it was completed.

How do we translate these tenses?

* **Present tense – “verbs,” is “verbing”** (e.g. he sleeps, he is sleeping)
* **Imperfect tense – was/were “verbing** (e.g. he was sleeping)
* **Perfect tense – have/has “verbed”** (e.g. he has slept)

How do we identify the verb’s tense?

* **Present tense – the “normal” version of the verb**
* **Imperfect tense – “ba” tense sign (verb stem + ba + personal ending)**
* **Perfect tense - “v” tense sign (verb stem + v + it/erunt)**

Example:

*3rd person singular 3rd person plural*

portat – he carries/he is carrying portant – they carry/they are carrying

portabat – he was carrying portabant – they were carrying

portavit – he has carried portaverunt – they have carried