

## Perfect Tense

The perfect form of a verb usually brings the reader's attention to the consequences of a prior (previous) event; e.g. 'he has gone to the inn' implies that he is at the inn and is still there. In contrast with 'he went to the inn' (which happened sometime in the past).

Form the perfect tense by:

- turning the verb into its past participle inflection, e.g. walked, taken (as opposed to its present participle, e.g. walking, taking);
- adding a form of the verb *have* before it.

Further examples of the perfect form of verbs (which are present perfect and which are past perfect forms?):

\*Convert these sentences into the present perfect and past perfect forms e.g.

**Tim the ostler was in love with Bess.**

Present perfect - Tim the ostler, had fallen in love with Bess.

Past perfect - Tim the ostler has fallen in love with Bess.

**The redcoats drank the landlords ale.**

Present perfect .....

Past perfect .....

**The wind blew leaves off the trees.**

Present perfect .....

Past perfect .....

**The Highwayman promised he would return**

Present perfect .....

Past perfect .....

**Bess looked out the casement.**

Present perfect .....

Past perfect .....

### **\*\*Perfect Tense**

Rewrite the start of the poem in first present perfect then past perfect tense. Eg

The wind had blown through the trees as the moon had hidden behind the clouds. The Highwayman had galloped along the purple moor with his pistols which had twinkled in the moonlight.

The wind has blown through the trees as the moon has hidden behind the clouds. The Highwayman has galloped along the purple moor with his pistols which have twinkled in the moonlight.