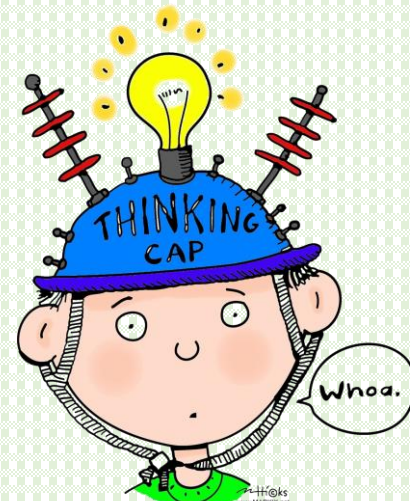


Monday 18th May 2020

WALT use the correct tenses.

WILF:

- *Use different tenses depending on the event you're talking about*
- *Use the correct spelling rules for each tense*
- *Double check your tenses afterwards with a read through*



The majority of your autobiography will be written in past tense, as it will refer to events that have already happened. However, you may sometimes talk about the present or the future.

Let's recap the tenses...

Simple past present and future

Past tense: past tense occurred before now.

When we are referring to the past, we add -ed onto the end of verbs. We also use the other past tense form of words. For example: can becomes could, will becomes would, shall becomes should and so forth.

Was, were, had, left, said are all past tense.

'I ate a bagel for breakfast'.

Present tense:

Present tense refers to something that is currently happening.

is, can, am, have, live, watch, hear - it's usually made up of root words without suffixes.

'I am living with a dog called Hilda.'

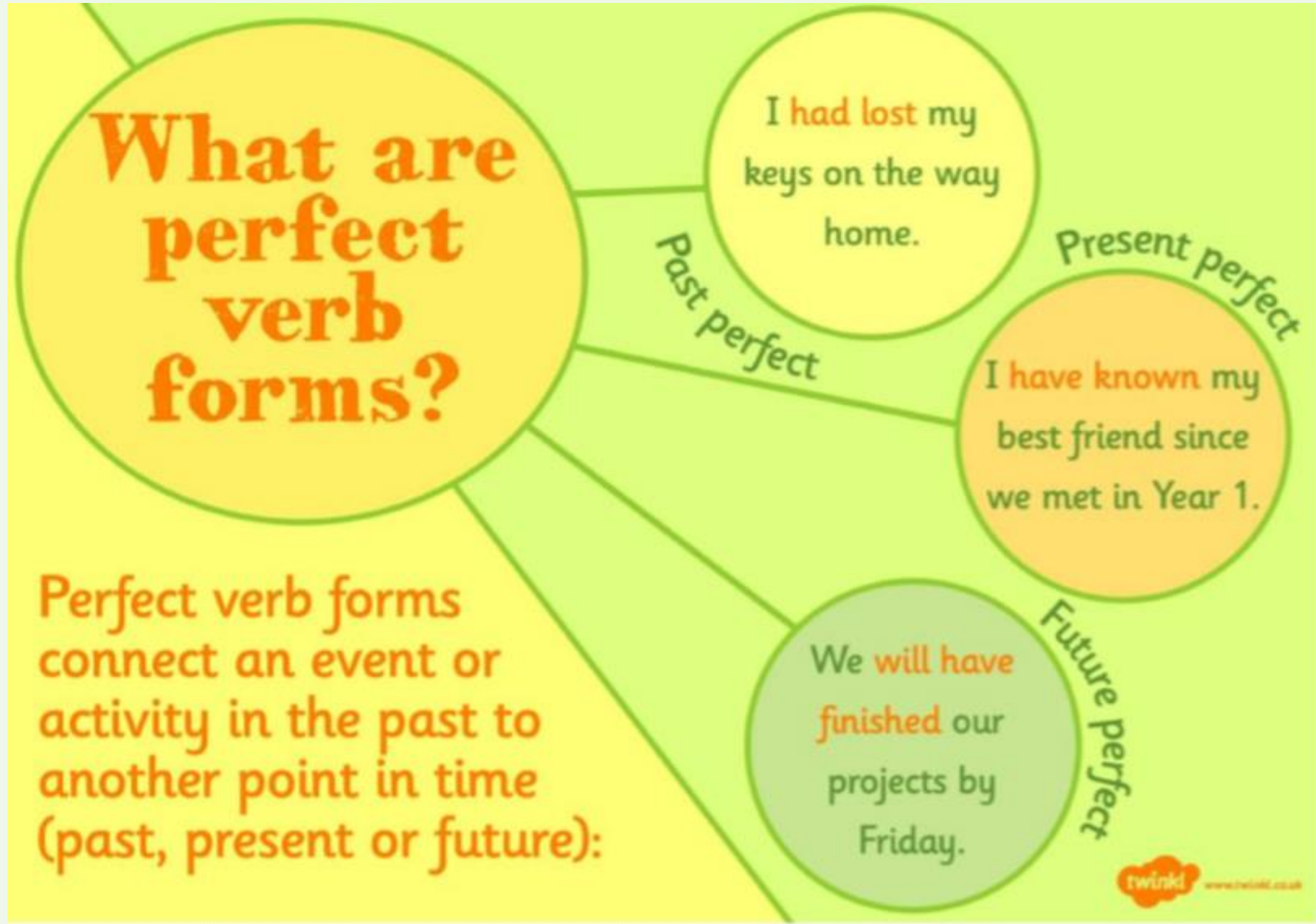
Future tense

This refers to something that is going to happen, but has not yet.

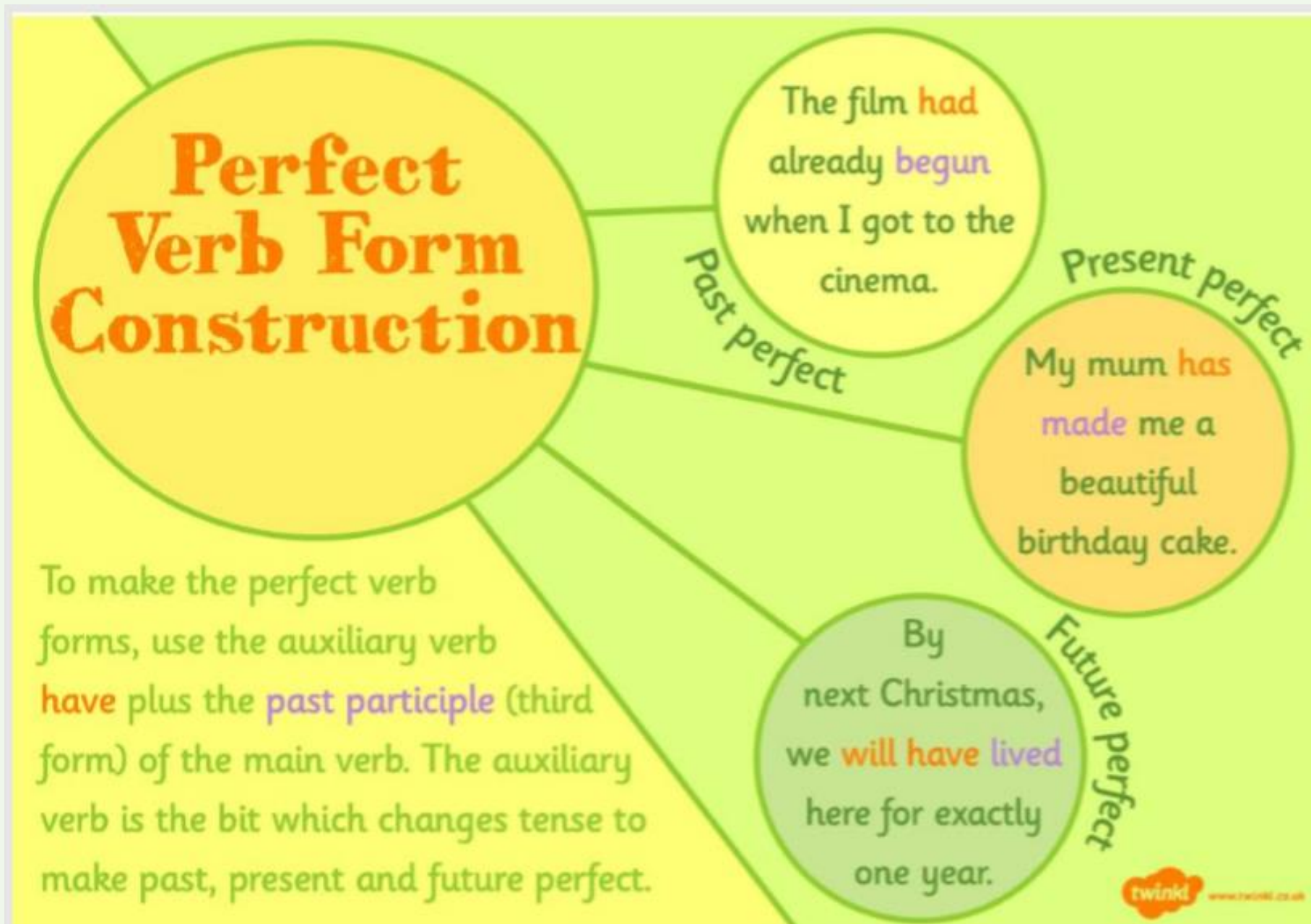
Shall, will, are, going to, suffixes. I am looking forward to watching the Olympics in 2021.



Don't forget perfect tenses exist, too!



Don't forget perfect tenses exist, too!



Let's look at the different tenses used in an autobiography example...

Present tense

Past tense

Why do you think it changed tenses?



My Life by Matilda Wormwood

My name **is** Matilda Wormwood. I **have** a mummy named Zinnia, a daddy named Harry and a brother named Michael, who **is** five years older than me. I **am** extremely thankful that I don't live with my family anymore. After much suffering during my early childhood, I **now live** at The Red House with a wonderfully kind lady called Miss Honey and I couldn't be happier.

Why don't I live with my parents? Well, put simply, my family **were** a bunch of dishonest, selfish and ignorant people, too wrapped up in their own lives to even notice me, their own daughter. Unfortunately, they **failed** completely to appreciate my abilities. I mean, most parents would be overjoyed to have a clever child; they would delight in being able to boast about their offspring to anyone who would listen. Not my parents! They **thought** I was stupid, even though I **could** talk as well as any adult by the age of one and a half. By three years old, I **had taught** myself to read and by four years old, I **had read** all the books in my local library. Books **helped** me enormously; they **transported** me to new and exciting worlds where I **adored** meeting many fascinating people, all the comfort of my own little bedroom.



We change tenses to show when something takes place. That way, the reader is able to follow the order of things happening and knows whether it is still going on.



In an autobiography, the introduction is usually present tense, then the main paragraphs use past and perfect tenses. The conclusion used future tense to state the hopes for the future.

E.g.: simple present tense simple future simple past tense present perfect future perfect
past perfect

My name is Cleopatra, I am 30 years old and I currently live in Egypt, where I was born. I will probably have lived here my whole life by the time I depart to the afterlife. So far, I have had a fascinating life, full of challenges and triumphs: I am sure you will not be disappointed to hear of my brave tale.

When I became pharaoh of Egypt, there had been many before me who left interesting legacies and monuments. I never would have imagined wrestling my way into their positions and creating a name for myself.

Your activity:

Write one or two paragraphs of an autobiography using different tenses as needed to refer to different people or events.

I would prefer you to write about a Pharaoh, but if you cannot remember enough facts, write about your own life.

