

Usage of Relativistic Verb Tenses

1 *Explanation of relativistic verb tenses*

Relativistic verb tenses describe action over a great enough distance that the speed of light becomes relevant. For example, a spacecraft cannot communicate its status after landing on Mars in less than eight minutes, and Earth-bound writers will struggle to describe the spacecraft's status during the eight minutes between when the spacecraft should have landed and when receivers on Earth learn the spacecraft's status.

Relativistic tenses are useful when knowledge of an action at a great distance is known, but direct evidence of the action is unavailable. For example, a star undergoing a core collapse will emit neutrinos during the collapse, and explode during the supernova several hours later. While scientists around the world have access to neutrino detectors and can detect a local core collapse supernova, writers will struggle to explain how direct evidence can precede an apparent event.

Because a relativistic verb tense is only necessary when describing something either before or after the present, these tenses are only used in the past and future.

2 *Description*

There are eight relativistic verb tenses. Of these, only two are of note: The future conditional past perfect and the past conditional future perfect.

3 *Future conditional past perfect*

Use the past perfect continuous, but leave the verb in the infinitive. With the example of a spacecraft landing, use the example

The spacecraft had been going to land.

4 *Past conditional future perfect*

Use the future perfect continuous, but leave the verb in the infinitive. With the example of an imminent core collapse supernova, use the example

The star will have been going to explode.

5 *Proper use.*

Relativistic verb tenses should not be used when great distances are not involved

The boy will have been going to throw the ball at the man.	The boy threw the ball at the man.
---	---------------------------------------