past tense

present tense

I ate

I eat

Simple past tense

Simple present tense

Simple tenses have no auxiliary verb (the verb is one word).

More about verbs...

I am eating

I was eating



The action is in progress

Progressive tense

I have eaten

I had eaten



The action is completed:

Perfect tense

Perfect tense

I have eaten

I had eaten



The perfect tense always describes something that has been done.

The perfect tense is formed using the verb *to have*.

The action is completed:

Perfect tense

Perfect tense

I have eaten

I had eaten



The action is completed:

Perfect tense

Present perfect or past perfect.

I have waited
(present perfect tense)

I had waited
(past perfect tense)

Perfect tense

I have eaten

I had eaten



The action is completed:

Perfect tense

Present perfect or past perfect.

The 'present' or 'past' label refers to the auxillary verb *to have.*

I have
(present tense)

I had
(past tense)

I have waited
(present perfect tense)

I had waited
(past perfect tense)