

# USES OF TENSES

## PART - II ENGLISH

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# TENSE

## **DEFINITION:**

Tense is a verb form that shows the time of an action, event or state, by a change in its form and / or the use of a helping verb

**EXAMPLES:** works, see, will call, etc.,

# TYPES OF TENSES

There are **three** main verb **tenses** in English

1) **Present**

2) **Past** and

3) **Future**

- ⦿ The present, past and future **tenses** are divided into four aspects: the simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous
- ⦿ Hence there are 12 major verb **tenses**

Past



March 5,  
2008

Present



I love school!

Future



I want to be a  
firefighter.

# TYPES OF PRESENT TENSES

- 1) **Present Simple**
- 2) **Present continuous**
- 3) **Present perfect and**
- 4) **Present perfect continuous**

# PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

**STRUCTURE:** Verb + s/es in third person

1. The Present Simple Tense is used when something is generally **true**

**EXAMPLE :**

The sun **rises** in the east

2. We use it in the first and the zero conditionals

**EXAMPLE:**

If it rains, I won't come

3. For habits or things that we do regularly. We often use adverbs of frequency in this case

**EXAMPLE:**

She gets up at seven o'clock every day

4. We can use this tense to talk about the future. When you are discussing a timetable or a fixed plan

**EXAMPLE:**

School **begins** at eight tomorrow

- ⦿ We need to use this simple tense with **stative** (condition which is not changing or likely to change) **verbs**

**EXAMPLE:**

This soup **tastes** great



# PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

**STRUCTURE:** Subject + Verb To BE + V.ing (gerund)

- ◉ We use the present continuous tense to talk about the present:

For something that is **happening at the moment** of speaking

**EXAMPLE:**

I'm speaking English language

# PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

**STRUCTURE:** Subject + has/have + V.3

- ⦿ Use with the situation that **already happen but continue to the present** and may happen in the future

**EXAMPLE:**

He has jumped

# PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

**STRUCTURE:** Subject + has, have + Been + V.ing(gerund)

- ◉ We use the Present Perfect Continuous to show that something **started in the past and has continued up until now**

**EXAMPLE:**

I have been reading this book for two hours

- ◉ You can also use the Present Perfect Continuous **WITHOUT a duration**
- ◉ We use the words “lately” or “recently” to emphasize this meaning

EXAMPLE:

She has been watching too much television **lately**

# TYPES OF PAST TENSES

- 1) Past simple
- 2) Past continuous
- 3) Past perfect and
- 4) Past perfect continuous

# PAST SIMPLE TENSE

**STRUCTURE** : Subject + V.2

- ⦿ Use the simple past to express the idea that an action **started and finished in the past**

**EXAMPLE:**

I saw a movie yesterday

- ◉ The Simple Past can also be used to describe a **habit which stopped in the past or facts which are no longer true**
- ◉ It can have the same meaning as “used to”

**EXAMPLE:**

I studied Japanese when I was a child

- ◉ The Simple Past can be used with **duration** which starts and stops in the past

**EXAMPLE:** I lived in Brazil for two years

# PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

**STRUCTURE:** Subject + was/were + V.ing(gerund)

- ◉ Use with the situation **that happen in the past but interrupt by other situation**

**EXAMPLE :** The sun was shining every day that summer

- ◉ Use with **situation 2 situation that happen in the same time** in the past

**EXAMPLE :** John was doing homework in bedroom while  
Cartoon cooking in the Kitchen



# PAST PERFECT TENSE

## STRUCTURE:

- ⦿ Subject + had + Verb 3
- ⦿ Subject + hadn't + Verb 3 → Negative

We use the past perfect tense fairly often in English

1. A completed action before something else in the past

**EXAMPLE:** When we arrived, the film **had started**

2. To explain or give a reason for something in the past

**EXAMPLE:**

It **had snowed** in the night, so the bus didn't arrive

3. Something that started in the past and continued up to another action in the past

**EXAMPLE:**

When he graduated, he **had been** in London for six years

# PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

STRUCTURE: Subject + had been + V.ing(gerund)

- ◉ We normally use the past perfect continuous for something
- ◉ we **had done** several times up to a point in the past and **continued to** do after that point

EXAMPLE:

They had been talking for an hour before you arrived

# TYPES OF FUTURE TENSES

- 1) Future simple
- 2) **Future** continuous
- 3) **Future** perfect and
- 4) **Future** perfect continuous

# FUTURE SIMPLE TENSE

**STRUCTURE:** Subject + will/shall + V.1

To use:

- ⦿ Use with the **situation that will happen in the future** and have adverb of time to indicate time

**EXAMPLE:**

Nam warn will go to study at America in next two month

# FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE

**STRUCTURE:** Subject + Will be + V.ing(gerund)

- ◉ We use the Future Continuous to indicate that we **will be** in the middle of **doing something in a specified time** in the future

**EXAMPLE:**

She **will be sleeping** when I visit her

# FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

**STRUCTURE:** Subject + will + have + V.3

- ⦿ The Future Perfect expresses the idea that something will **occur before another action in the future**
- ⦿ It can also show that **something will happen before a specific time in the future.**

**EXAMPLE:**

I will have eaten breakfast at 8 o'clock tomorrow

- ◉ If there have **2 events**. The first event will use Future perfect tense and second event will use Present Simple tense

**EXAMPLE:**

I will have cleaned the floor when my mom gets home



# FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

## STRUCTURE:

Subject + will have been + present participle(Verb 3)

- ◉ We used to project ourselves forward in time and to look back
- ◉ It refers to **events** or actions **in a time between now and some future time are unfinished**. It is most often used with a time expression

## EXAMPLE:

I **will have been eating** breakfast for 30 minutes at  
8 o'clock tomorrow

## Simple Present

(verb) + (s or es - if using the 3rd person)

X X X X X X X X X X

← Past Present Future →

You study English.  
She studies English.

## Present Continuous

(am / is / are ) + (present participle)

Past Present Future

You are studying English right now.

## Present Perfect

(has / have ) + (past participle)

Past Present Future

You have studied English at some time in the past.

## Present Perfect Continuous

(has / have ) + (been) + (present participle)

Past Present Future

You have been studying English for three years and you may continue studying English.

## Simple Past

(verb) + (ed) or irregular

X

← Past Present Future →

You studied English yesterday.

## Past Continuous

(was / were) + (present participle)

Past Present Future

You were studying English when the telephone rang.

## Past Perfect

(had) + (past participle)

Past Present Future

You had studied English at some point in time before you came to class.

## Past Perfect Continuous

(had) + (been) + (present participle)

Past Present Future

You had been studying English for two years before you came to class.

## Simple Future

(will) + (verb)  
(am / is / are) + (going to) + (verb)

X X X X X

← Past Present Future →

You will study English in the future.  
You are going to study English in the future.

## Future Continuous

(will) + (be) + (present participle)  
(am / is / are) + (going to) + (be) + (present participle)

Past Present Future

You will be studying English for the next two years.  
You are going to be studying English for the next two years.

## Future Perfect

(will) + (have) + (past participle)  
(am / is / are) + (going to) + (have) + (past participle)

Past Present Future

You will have studied English for two years at some time in 2012.  
You are going to have studied English for two years at some time in 2012.

## Future Perfect Continuous

(will) + (have) + (been) + (present participle)  
(am / is / are) + (going to) + (have) + (been) + (present participle)

Past Present Future

You will have been studying English for two years next Monday.  
You are going to have been studying English for two years next Monday.