

Tenses

10 Tenses

The word **Tense** is used to denote a characteristic of the verb in a sentence. The tense of a verb is used to depict the particular time in which a specific event takes place.

There are three main tenses and each is further classified into four different forms, which sum up to twelve forms of tenses in total. The three tenses in English are:

- Present Tense
- Past Tense
- Future Tense

10.1 Present Tense

The **Present Tense** refers to the action or event that takes place or is taking place in the present. It represents the current activity or the present state of being of the subject in the given context.

10.1.1 Forms of the Present Tense

The present tense can be used in four different forms, namely,

- **Simple Present Tense** – used to indicate the current action or an action that takes place regularly.
- **Present Continuous Tense** – used to denote an action that is continuing at the present moment.
- **Present Perfect Tense** – used to indicate an action that has been completed and still has its effect on the subject or object in the sentence.
- **Present Perfect Continuous Tense** – used to represent an action that began in the recent past and is still continuing, along with some time frame, mentioned.

10.1.2 Structure of the Present Tense

Tense	Structure	Example
Simple Present Tense	Subject + Verb in the base form/for the 3rd person singular 's' or 'es' is added + the rest of the sentence	I go to school every day. He plays cricket.
Present Continuous Tense	Subject + Helping Verb(am/is/are) + Main verb+ing + the rest of the sentence.	Tania is watching a movie. They are planning a birthday party for their friend.

Present Perfect Tense	Subject + Helping Verb (has/have) + Past participle of the main verb + the rest of the sentence along with the time frame.	Tariq has just left the hall. I have just reached home.
Present Perfect Continuous Tense	Subject + Helping Verb (has/have) + Been + Verb + ing + the rest of the sentence + time phrase (since/for).	They have been waiting for you for a long time. Anam has been checking her phone now and then since she reached here.

The present tense changes its structure when used in the positive, negative, interrogative and negative interrogative sentences.

Sentence Type	Structure	Example
Positive	Subject + Verb + .	She likes pizzas.
Negative	Subject + Do not/Does not (Don't/Doesn't) + Verb + .	She does not like pizzas. They don't like pizzas.
Interrogative	Do/Does + Subject + Verb + ?	Does she like pizzas? Do they like pizzas?
Negative Interrogative	Don't/Doesn't + Subject + Verb + ?	Doesn't she like pizzas? Don't they like pizzas?

10.2 Past Tense

The **Past Tense** refers to the action or event that took place or was taking place in the past.

10.2.1 Forms of the Past Tense

The **Past Tense** has four different forms to indicate the varied nature of actions that happened in the past. They are:

- **Simple Past Tense** – used to indicate an action or event that happened in the past.
- **Past Continuous Tense** – used to depict an action or event that was continuing in the past.
- **Past Perfect Tense** – used to represent an event or an action that happened in the past before another event or action that happened in the past.
- **Past Perfect Continuous Tense** – used to denote an action or event that had been taking place in the past until another action or event happened in the past along with some time frame.

10.2.2 Structure of the Past Tense

Tense	Structure	Example
Simple Past Tense	Subject + Verb + ed / verb in the past tense + the rest of the sentence.	Nadia met me at in park.
Past Continuous Tense	Subject + Helping Verb(was/were) + Main verb+ing + the rest of the sentence.	It was raining .

Past Perfect Tense	Subject + Helping Verb (had) + Past participle of the main verb + the rest of the sentence along with the time frame.	Tahir had eaten his dinner before we reached the venue.
Past Perfect Continuous Tense	Subject + Helping Verb (had) + Been + Verb+ing + the rest of the sentence + time phrase (since/for).	Shams had been practising the guitar for three years.

The past tense changes its structure when used in the positive, negative, interrogative and negative interrogative sentences.

Sentence Type	Structure	Example
Positive	Subject + Past tense form of the verb + .	She sang a song.
Negative	Subject + Did not / Didn't + Base form of the verb + .	She did not sing a song.
Interrogative	Did + Subject + Base form of the verb + ?	Did she sing a song?
Negative Interrogative	Didn't + Subject + Base form of the verb + ?	Didn't she sing a song?

10.2.3 Past Tense Verbs with the Past and Past Participle Forms

Base/forms of the Verbs	Past forms of the Verbs	Past Participle forms of the Verbs
check	checked	checked
reach	reached	reached
teach	taught	taught
sing	sang	sung
buy	bought	bought
throw	threw	thrown
sink	sank	sunk
fly	flew	flown
dance	danced	danced
drink	drank	drunk

10.3 Future Tense

The **Future Tense** is the form of the verb that you use when talking about something that will happen or exist.

10.3.1 Forms of the Future Tense

The future tense can be used in four different forms in order to show how the actions in the future behave differently in various situations, and they are:

- **Simple Future Tense** – used to denote an action that will happen in the future.

- **Future Continuous Tense** – used to indicate an action that will be taking place in the future.
- **Future Perfect Tense** – used to represent an action that will have completed in the future.
- **Future Perfect Continuous Tense** – used to depict an action that will have been happening in the present and will complete at some point in the future along with some time frame.

10.3.2 Structure of the Future Tense

Tense	Structure	Example
Simple Future Tense	Subject + Auxiliary verb (will/shall) + Base form of the main verb + the rest of the sentence.	Ajmal will meet me at the gym.
Future Continuous Tense	Subject + Helping Verb (will/shall) + Be + Main verb + ing + the rest of the sentence.	Ajmal will be meeting me at the gym.
Future Perfect Tense	Subject + Helping Verb (will/shall) + Have + Past participle form of the main verb + the rest of the sentence.	Ajmal will have met me at the gym.
Future Perfect Continuous Tense	Subject + Helping verb (will/shall) + Have + Been + Main verb + ing + the rest of the sentence + time frame (since/for).	Ajmal will have been meeting me at the gym since tomorrow.

The future tense changes its structure when used in the positive, negative, interrogative and negative interrogative sentences.

Sentence Type	Structure	Example
Positive	Subject + Will + Base form of the verb + .	Sanam will walk to school tomorrow.
Negative	Subject + Will not/Won't + Base form of the verb + .	Sanam will not/won't walk to school tomorrow.
Interrogative	Will + Subject + Base form of the verb + ?	Will Sanam walk to school tomorrow?
Negative Interrogative	Won't + Subject + Base form of the verb + ?	Won't Sanam walk to school tomorrow?



Grammar Exercise — 3

1. Go through the sentences given below and identify the types of tenses.

- a. Dawood drinks coffee every morning.
- b. The boy got up late and missed the bus.
- c. The team is playing very well.
- d. The school will be closed for winter break.
- e. Lubna graduated from this college last year.
- f. The baby has eaten all the chips.
- g. Have you read *Pride and Prejudice*?
- h. The train has just left the station.
- i. The sick child has been sleeping for three hours.
- j. They have known each other for a long time.
- k. Samia was going to school.
- l. When I went there, Bashir was playing video games.
- m. The workers have been working on the building for a long time.
- n. Pervez had done his homework when her parents came back.
- o. I will move to Sialkot soon.