

Tenses

Tenses play a crucial role in the English language. It denotes the time an action takes place, whether sometime in the past, in the present or will take some time in the future.

Grammatical tense definition:

English tenses are the form the verb takes to show the time of an action.

What are Tenses in English?

Grammar tenses refer to the state of the verb. The state, or tense, of the verb explains the time of the action.

Structure of all tenses with examples

1. Simple Present Tense

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive: S + V1 + O/C

Negative: S + do/does + not + V1 + O/C

Interrogative/ Question: Do/does + S + V1 + O/C

Example of Simple Present Tense:

(+) Sisca reads book everyday.

(-) Sisca does not read book everyday.

(?) Does Sisca read book everyday?

Yes, she does. / No, she does not.

2. Present Progressive/Continuous Tense:

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive: S + be + V1 + ing + O/C

Negative:- S + be + not + V1 + ing + O/C

Interrogative/ Question: Be + S + V1 + ing + O/C

Example of Present Progressive/Continuous Tense:

(+) He is playing badminton now

(-) He is not playing badminton now

(?) Is he playing badminton now?

Yes, he is. / No, he is not.

3. Present Perfect Tense:

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive:- S + has/have + V3 + O/C

Negative:- S + has/have + not + V3 + O/C

Interrogative/ Question:- Have/has + S + V3 + O/C

Example of Present Perfect Tense:

(+)Roni has eaten the steak already.

(-)Roni has not eaten the steak already.

(?)Has he eaten the steak already?

Yes, he has. / No, he has not.

4. Present Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense:

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive:- S + have/has + been + V-ing + O/C + Since/for +Time

Negative:- S + have/has + not + been + V-ing + O/C + Since/for +Time

Interrogative/ Question:- Have/has + S + been + V-ing + O/C + Since/for +Time

Example of Present Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense:

(+) He has been playing guitar for two hours.

(-) He has not been playing guitar for two hours.

(?) Has he been playing guitar for two hours?

Yes, he has. / No, he has not.

5. Simple Past Tense:

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive:- S + V2 + O/C

Negative:- S + did not + V1 + O/C

Interrogative/ Question:- Did + S + V1 + O/C

Example of Simple Past Tense:

(+) He visited me yesterday.

(-) He did not visit me yesterday.

(?) Did he visit you yesterday?

Yes, he did. / No, he did not.

6. Past Progressive/Continuous Tense:

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive:- S + to be (was/were) + V-ing + O/C

Negative:- S + to be (was/were) + not + V-ing + O/C

Interrogative/ Question:- Was/were + S + V-ing + O/C

Example of Past Progressive/Continuous Tense:

(+) She was sleeping when I came.

(-) She was not sleeping when I came.

(?) Was she sleeping when you came?

Yes, she was. / No, she was not.

7. Past Perfect Tense

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive:-	S + had + V3 + O/C
Negative:-	S + had + not + V3 + O/C
Interrogative/ Question:-	Had + S + V3 + O/C

Example of Past Perfect Tense:

- (+) He had gone to Bali when I called him.
- (-) He had not gone to Bali when I called him.
- (?) Had he gone to Bali when you called him?
- Yes, he had. / No, he had not.

8. Past Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense:

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive:-	S + had + been + V-ing + O/C + Since/for +Time
Negative:-	S + had + not + been + V-ing + O/C + Since/for +Time
Interrogative/ Question:-	Had + S + been + V-ing + O/C + Since/for +Time

Example of Past Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense:

- (+) They had been living in Jakarta for ten years.
- (-) They had not been living in Jakarta for ten years.
- (?) Had they been living in Jakarta for ten years?
- Yes, they had. / No, they had not.

9. Simple Future Tense:

Rule No 1

Structure / Formula :

Affirmative/ Positive:-	S + will/shall + V1 + O/C
Negative:-	S + will/shall + not + V1 + O/C
Interrogative/ Question:-	Will/shall + S + V1 + O/C

Rule No 2

Affirmative/ Positive:-	S + am/is/are + going to + V1 + O/C
Negative:-	S + am/is/are + not + going to + V1 + O/C
Interrogative/ Question:-	Am/is/are + S + going to + V1 + O/C

Example of Simple Future Tense:

Example:1

- (+) She will eat fried rice.
- (-) She will not eat fried rice.
- (?) Will she eat fried rice?
- Yes, she will. / No, she will not.

Example:2

- (+)She is going to eat fried rice.
- (-)She is not going to eat fried rice.

(?) Is she going to eat fried rice?

Yes, she is. / No, she is not.

10. Future Progressive/Continuous Tense:

Structure / Formula :

Affirmative/ Positive:- S + will/shall + be + V-ing + O/C

Negative:- S + will/shall + not + be + V-ing + O/C

Interrogative/ Question:- Will/shall + S + be + V-ing + O/C

Example of Future Progressive/Continuous Tense:

(+) I will be watching a movie tonight.

(-) I will not be watching a movie tonight.

(?) Will you be watching a movie tonight?

Yes, I will. / No, I will not.

11. Future Perfect Tense:

Structure / Formula :

Affirmative/ Positive:- S + shall/will + have + been + C

S + shall/will + have + V3 + O

Negative:- S + shall/will + not + have + been + C

S + shall/will + not + have + V3 + O

Interrogative/ Question:- Shall/will + S + have + been + C

Shall/will + S + have + V3 + O

Find here Example of Future Perfect Tense:

(+) I will have been in this hospital until tomorrow morning.

He will have rented my house next month.

(-) I will not have been in this hospital until tomorrow morning.

He will not have rented my house next month.

(?) Will you have been in this hospital until tomorrow morning?

Will he have rented my house next month?

Yes, I will. / No, I will not.

Yes, he will. / No, he will not.

12. Future Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense:

Structure / Formula:

Affirmative/ Positive:- S + shall/will + have + been + V-ing + O

Negative:- S + shall/will + not + have + been + V-ing + O

Interrogative/ Question:- Shall/will + S + have + been + V-ing + O

Example of Future Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense:

(+) She will have been visiting us tomorrow.

(-) She will not have been visiting us tomorrow.

(?) Will she have been visiting us tomorrow?

Yes, she will. / No, she will not

Tenses Examples: Example sentences of all tenses are given to construct the grammatically correct sentence. These sentences will make you more familiar with tenses.

Simple Present Tense Examples

- The earth **revolves** around the sun.
- She **wakes** up early in the morning daily.
- I **speak** French quite well.
- He **works** in this hotel as a chef.
- They **lead** a simple life.
- She **serves** the dinner at half-past eight and puts the children to sleep at half-past nine.

Present Progressive/Continuous Tense Examples

- He **is walking** to the door.
- He **is trying** hard to complete the degree.
- The teacher **is delivering** the lecture.
- **Is** Jimmy **attending** the webinar on digital marketing?
- I understand what you **are trying** to tell me.

Present Perfect Tense Examples

- He **has planted** a ridge of cauliflowers in his garden.
- The teacher **has explained** the use of the verb to the class.
- Tom **has completed** two chapters of the book.
- I **have not yet taken** my lunch.
- **Has** he already **left** for England for higher studies?

Present Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense Examples

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- I **have been taking** a dose of medicine for two weeks.
- I **have not been speaking** to her for two weeks.
- She **has been trying** to learn French for one month.
- He **has been discussing** the interior design for two hours.
- He **has been working** as an editor in this newspaper since 2013.

Simple Past Tense Examples

- I **used** to go for a walk.
- The teacher **advised** the students to frame a timetable for Mathematics.
- He **admired** the poetry of Shakespeare.
- The little boy **fed** the fish in the pond.
- I **did not wish** to talk to about that matter.

Past Progressive/Continuous Tense Examples

- He **was planning** for his future studies.
- The gardener **was mowing** the grass of the lawn.
- The husband **was reading** a book and the wife was sitting beside him.
- I **was peeling** potatoes in the kitchen yesterday.
- **Was** he **celebrating** his birthday last week?

Past Perfect Tense Examples

- Julia **had completed** her assignment before the boss arrived.
- The sales manager **had** successfully **achieved** the target of sales.
- He **had worked** as a cashier in this bank.
- She **had performed** the research work to complete her degree.
- It **had rained** heavily last year when the roads flooded with water.

Past Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense Examples

- He **had been playing** hockey for two hours.
- He **had been making** satisfactory progress since his admission to the college.
- I **had been working** under the supervision of Mr. Williams.
- She **had been looking** for her lost watch for two hours but she did not find it.

Simple Future Tense Examples

- **Tomorrow I am leaving** for Dubai.
- I **will go** to the beach next Sunday.
- She **will buy** a gift for her friend.
- My father **will buy** a car for me.
- He **will take** the final exam next month.

Future Progressive/Continuous Tense Examples

- She **will be making** pudding at the weekend.
- He **will be drinking** tea in the morning at 7 o'clock.
- They **will be playing** football next Sunday.
- She **will be baking** pies for her children.

Future Perfect Tense Examples

- Tom **will have completed** his graduation degree by the end of this year.
- Tom **will have traveled** to Rome.
- I **will have planted** a sapling in my lawn.
- I **will have done** my duty before I'll leave the office.

Future Perfect Progressive/Continuous Tense Examples

- The guests **will have been leaving** the party for one hour.
- The farmer **will have been sowing** crops since November.
- He **will have been painting** his house since morning.
- I **will have been learning** Spanish for two weeks.
- My firm **will have been progressing** by leaps and bounds.