

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	Subject + Verb in the base	I go to school every day.
Tense	from/for the 3rd person singular	He plays cricket.
	's' or 'es' is added + the rest of the sentence	
Present	Subject + Helping Verb(am/is/are)	Tania is watching a movie.
Continuous	+ Main verb+ing + the rest of the	They are planning a birthday
Tense	sentence.	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	
Negative	(Don't/Doesn't) + Verb + .	They don't like pizzas.
Interrogative	Do/Does + Subject + Verb +?	Does she like pizzas?
		Do they like pizzas?
Negative	Don't/Doesn't + Subject + Verb	Doesn't she like pizzas?
Interrogative	+?	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	Subject + Verb + ed / verb in the	Nadia met me at in park.
Tense	past tense + the rest of the sentence.	
Past Continuous	Subject + Helping Verb(was/were)	It was raining.
Tense	+ Main verb+ing + the rest of the	_
	sentence.	

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

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	She sang a song.
	verb+.	
Negative	Subject + Did not / Didn't + Base	She did not sing a song.
Negative	form of the verb + .	at a
Intownogativa	Did + Subject + Base form of the	Did she sing a song?
Interrogative	verb +?	
Negative	Didn't + Subject + Base form of	Didn't she sing a song?
Interrogative	the verb + ?	

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	Subject + Auxiliary verb (will/shall) +	Ajmal will meet me at
Tense	Base form of the main verb + the rest of	the gym.
	the sentence.	
Future	Subject + Helping Verb (will/shall) + Be	Ajmal will be meeting
Continuous	+ Main verb + ing + the rest of the	me at the gym.
Tense	sentence.	
Future Perfect	Subject + Helping Verb (will/shall) +	Ajmal will have
Tense	Have + Past participle form of the main	met me at the gym.
	verb + the rest of the sentence.	
Future Perfect	Subject + Helping verb (wil/shalll) +	Ajmal will have been
Continuous	Have + Been + Main verb + ing + the rest	meeting me at the gym
Tense	of the sentence + time frame (since/for).	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	Sanam will walk to school
	the verb +.	tomorrow.
Negative	Subject + Will not/Won't + Base	Sanam will not/won't
	form of the verb + .	walk to school tomorrow.
Interrogative	Will + Subject + Base form of	Will Sanam walk to school
	the verb +?	tomorrow?
Negative	Won't + Subject + Base form of	Won't Sanam walk to
Interrogative	the verb +?	school tomorrow?



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

- Dawood drinks coffee every morning.
- b. The boy got up late and missed the bus.
- 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.
- Have you read Pride and Prejudice? g.
- h. The train has just left the station.
- The sick child has been sleeping for three hours. i.
- They have known each other for a long time. j.
- k. Samia was going to school.
- When I went there, Bashir was playing video games. 1.
- m. The workers have been working on the building for a long time.
- nh of R n. Pervez had done his homework when her parents came back.
- o. I will move to Sialkot soon.