

Fundamentals of English Grammar.

Some Lectures About Tenses in English Grammar-University of Mosul- College of Arts- First Year Students.2024-2025

Title

Tenses in English Grammar.

Understanding the use of time in English sentences.

Introduction

Tenses show the time of an action.

They are essential for clear communication.

Overview

There are three main times:

- Present
- Past
- Future

Each has four aspects.

Tense Map

Time | Simple | Continuous | Perfect | Perfect Continuous

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Simple Present

Form: Subject + base verb (s/es)

Example: She walks to school.

Uses of Simple Present

- Habits and routines
- General facts
- Scheduled events

Examples

- I drink coffee every morning.
- The sun rises in the east.
- The train leaves at 9 AM.

Present Continuous

Form: Subject + am/is/are + verb-ing

Example: He is studying now.

Uses of Present Continuous

- Actions happening now
- Temporary actions
- Future plans

Examples

- She is watching TV.
- We are visiting Paris next week.

Present Perfect

Form: Subject + have/has + past participle

Example: I have finished my homework.

Uses of Present Perfect

- Actions with results in the present
- Life experiences
- Recently completed actions

Examples

- They have traveled to Japan.
- She has just left.

Present Perfect Continuous

Form: Subject + have/has been + verb-ing

Example: We have been studying for two hours.

Uses and Examples

- Emphasizing the duration of an action
- Action started in the past and continues now

Example:

- She has been working here since 2020.

Simple Past

Form: Subject + verb (past form)

Example: He played soccer yesterday.

Uses of Simple Past

- Completed actions in the past
- Specific times in the past

Examples

- I visited London in 2022.
- They watched a movie last night.

Past Continuous

Form: Subject + was/were + verb-ing

Example: I was reading when he called.

Uses and Examples

- Ongoing action in the past
- Interrupted actions

Example:

- She was sleeping when the phone rang.

Past Perfect

Form: Subject + had + past participle

Example: They had finished dinner before the movie started.

Past Perfect Continuous

Form: Subject + had been + verb-ing

Example: He had been working all day.

Simple Future

Form: Subject + will + base verb

Example: I will travel tomorrow.

Future Continuous

Form: Subject + will be + verb-ing

Example: This time tomorrow, I will be flying.

Future Perfect

Form: Subject + will have + past participle

Example: By next year, I will have graduated.

Future Perfect Continuous

Form: Subject + will have been + verb-ing

Example: Next month, I will have been working here for five years.

Summary of Main Tenses

- Present: Now.
- Past: Before now.
- Future: After now.
- Each has simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous forms.

Tips for Learning Tenses

- Practice daily.
- Focus on one tense at a time.
- Use examples and real-life sentences.

Common Mistakes

- Mixing tenses incorrectly.
- Forgetting auxiliary verbs (have, been, will).
- Using wrong verb forms.

Conclusion

Mastering tenses improves speaking, writing, and understanding English.

Practice makes perfect!