



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Tenses

A tense is a form of the verb that allows you to express time. The tense of the verb tells us when an event or something existed or when a person did something. Past, present, and future are the three main types of tenses.

Past tense

The past tense is used to describe an activity or an event that has happened in the past or a past state of being and needs to include a time marker for when the event or action took place.

Subject + verb (2nd form) + object.

Examples:

- We met *yesterday*.
- He bought a new laptop *last week*.

Present tense

The simple present tense or present tense is one of the most basic tenses in English. We use present tense to talk about something that is currently going on, something that is habitually performed, or a state that generally or currently exists.

Subject + verb (s/es) + object.

Examples:

- She *lives* in Spain.
- Bob *drives* a taxi.

Future tense

The future tense is a verb tense used to describe an event or action that has not yet happened and is expected to happen in the future.

Subject + shall/will+ verb (s/es) + object.

Example:

- He *will* be here soon.

Past continuous tense

The past continuous tense is used to describe events or actions that have already occurred in the past. It's employed to describe any action which has happened in the past.

Subject + helping verb (was/were) + verb (ing) + object.

Examples:

- I *was* watching TV.
- We *were* sleeping.
- She *wasn't* eating her lunch.

Past perfect tense

The past perfect tense is used to describe an event that occurred before a completed action in the past.

Subject + had + verb (ed) + object.

Examples:

- He *had gone* when she became ill.
- She *had not lived* in New York.
- *They had not been married long when I was born.*

Past perfect continuous tense

The past perfect continuous tense represents any action or event that started in the past and sometimes continued into another action or another time.

Subject + had been + Verb (ing) + object (optional) + time of action.

Examples:

- *We had been playing games for 6 hours when Dad came home.*
- *She had been reading magazines for 1 month before she decided to apply for the job.*
- *Had she been washing dishes all day?*

Present continuous tense

The present continuous tense is used to talk about the ongoing actions, events, or conditions that are still not finished.

Subject + helping verb (is / am/ are) + main verb (ing) + object.

Examples:

- She *is playing* basketball.
- Birds *are flying* in the sky.
- *I'm learning* English.

Present perfect tense

The present perfect tense is used to describe a situation or event that has already occurred but has immediate ramifications. The present perfect tense can be used to describe experiences, and situations that occurred in the past but still have an influence on the present. We don't use it with time markers.

Subject + helping verb (have/has) + verb (ed) + object.

Examples:

- *She has not finished* her work yet.
- *I have seen* that movie twice.
- *We have visited* LA several times.

Present perfect continuous tense

The present perfect continuous tense shows a situation that has started in the past and continues in the present.

Subject + helping verb (have/has) + been + verb (ing) + object (optional) + since / for + time duration + object.

Examples:

- *I have been learning* English for many years.
- He *has been working* here since 2010.
- *We have been saving* money.

Future continuous tense

The future continuous tense is used to describe an ongoing action that will occur or occur in the future.

Subject + shall/will be + verb (ing) + object.

Example:

- He *will be coming* to visit us next week.
- She *will be watching* TV.
- He *will be writing* a letter to Mary.

Future perfect tense

The future perfect is used to describe an action that will be completed between now and a certain point in the future.

Subject + shall/will + have + verb (3rd form) + object.

Examples:

- *They will have finished the film before we get home.*
- *She will have cleaned the house by 9pm.*

Future perfect continuous tense

We use the future perfect continuous to focus on the duration of an action before a specific time in the future.

Subject + shall/will + have been + verb (ing) + object (optional) + time instant.

Examples:

- He will have been studying hard for 2 weeks before the exam.
- *By the time the alarm goes off, we will have been sleeping for 8 hour*

Tenses Exercises with Solutions

Exercise 1 – Identifying Tenses

Read the sentences carefully and identify the tenses used.

1. She reads a book every night.
2. The cat chased the mouse.
3. I visit my grandmother every weekend.
4. The children are swimming in the pool.
5. We will visit Paris next year.
6. Sarah graduated from university two years ago.
7. The dog has dug a hole in the garden.
8. Have you seen the latest movie?
9. The bus has just left the station.

Solutions

1. Simple Present Tense
2. Simple Past Tense
3. Simple Present Tense
4. Present Continuous Tense
5. Simple Future Tense
6. Simple Past Tense
7. Present Perfect Tense
8. Present Perfect Tense
9. Present Perfect Tense

Exercise 2 – Tense Conversions

Transform the tenses of the following sentences as directed.

1. The girl sings beautifully. (Present Continuous Tense)
2. John has painted the wall. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)
3. The bird flew away. (Simple Present Tense)
4. I visited the museum last week. (Future Continuous Tense)
5. The baby slept all night. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)

Solutions

1. The girl is singing beautifully.
2. John has been painting the wall.
3. The bird flies away.

4. I will be visiting the museum next week.
5. The baby has been sleeping all night.