Tenses

Rules of Tenses help one understand how to correctly use the different tenses in a sentence,

without making a grammatical mistake and also by easily indicating when an event or action has occurred.

Tenses can be divided into three parts:

1. [Present Tense](https://byjus.com/#Present-Tense)
2. [Past Tense](https://byjus.com/#Past-Tense)
3. [Future Tense](https://byjus.com/#Future-Tense)

Each of the three above mentioned tenses can further be divided into sub parts. These sub parts include:

* Simple
* Continuous
* Perfect
* Perfect Continuous

Present Tense

Present Tense can be defined as an expression for an activity that is currently in action or is habitually performed. It is used for a state that generally exists or is currently ongoing.

* Simple Present

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| **Simple Present Tense** | |
| **Singular** | **Plural** |
| **Rule: Subject + V1 + s/es + Object** | **Rule: Subject + V1 + Object** |
| **Example: The girl sings a song**  Here the subject is Girl (singular) and “s” has been added to the verb (sing), followed by the object (song) | **Example: The girls sing a song**  Here the subject is Girls (plural) and no changes have been made with V1 (first form of verb) and the object |

* Present Continuous

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| **Present Continuous Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + is/am/are + V1 + ing + object** |
| Example: She is eating food  Here the subject is She, followed by “is”  The first form of verb (V1) here is “eat” and “ing” has been added to it, followed by the object “food” |
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* Present Perfect

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| **Present Perfect Tense** | |
| **Singular** | **Plural** |
| **Rule: Subject + has + V3 + Object** | **Rule: Subject + have + V3 + Object** |
| **Example: He has cleaned the utensils**  Here, “He” is the subject + has  “Cleaned” is the third form of verb and utensils is the object | **Example: They have cleaned the utensils**  Here, “They” is the subject + have  “Cleaned” is the third form of verb and utensils is the object |
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* Present Perfect Continuous Tense

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| **Present Perfect Continuous Tense** | |
| **Singular** | **Plural** |
| **Rule: Subject + has been + V1 + ing + Object** | **Rule: Subject + have been + V1 + ing + Object** |
| **Example: She has been practising since morning**  Here “She” is the subject + has been, followed by “ing” added to the the first form of verb “practise” and then the object | **Example: They have been practising since morning**  Here “They” is the subject + have been, followed by “ing” added to the the first form of verb “practise” and then the object |
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Given below are a few examples that may help you differentiate between the four sub parts of present tense easily:

1. Raj speaks German (Simple Present for Singular)
2. They speak German (Simple Present for Plural)
3. She is speaking German (Present Continuous)
4. He has learnt German (Present Perfect for Singular)
5. They have learnt German (Present Perfect for Plural)
6. She has been learning German (Present Perfect Continuous for Singular)
7. They have been learning German (Present Perfect Continuous for Plural)

Past Tense

Any event or action that took place in the past can be referred to as the past tense. Below we have discussed in detail the four sub parts of past tense in English grammar.

* Simple Past

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| **Simple Past Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + V2 + Object** |
| **For example: He ran away**  Here, the subject is “He” and “ran” is the second form of verb (V2) of “run” followed by the object |

* Past Continuous

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| **Past Continuous Tense** | |
| **Singular** | **Plural** |
| **Rule: Subject + was + V1 + ing + Object** | **Rule: Subject + were + V1 + ing + Object** |
| **For example: She was going shopping**  Here, the subject is “She” + was  It is followed by the first form of verb (V1) “go” + “ing” and then the object “shopping” | **For example: They were going shopping**  Here, the subject is “They” + were  Followed by the first form of verb (V1) “go” + “ing” and then the object “shopping” |

* Past Perfect

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| **Past Perfect Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + had + V3 + Object** |
| **For example: Sumit had left the job**  Here the subject is “Sumit” + had  Then “left”, which is the third form of verb (V3) “leave” is given followed by the object |

* Past Perfect Continuous

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| **Past Perfect Continuous Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + had been + V1 + ing + Object** |
| **For example: They had been preparing for their performance for two months**  Here the subject  is “They” + had been  It is followed by “preparing”, which is the first form of verb (V1) of “prepare” and then the object |

To help you understand past tense and its form even better, given below are a few examples to

simply the concept:

1. I played football yesterday (Simple Past)
2. I was playing football yesterday (Past Continuous for Singular)
3. They were playing football yesterday (Past Continuous for Plural)
4. They had played football yesterday (Past Perfect)
5. They had been playing football the entire yesterday (Past Perfect Continuous)

Future Tense

The actions that are to take place in the future fall in the category of future tense. We have discussed the sub parts of future tense in detail further below in the article, followed by the examples for the same.

* Simple Future

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| **Simple Future Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + will/shall + V1 + Object** |
| **For example: I will visit my Uncle tomorrow**  Here, the subject is “I” + will  It is followed by the first form of verb (V1) “visit” and then the object |

* Future Continuous

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| **Future Continuous Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + will be/shall be + V1 + ing + Object** |
| **For Example: I shall be going to the market tomorrow**  In this example, the subject is “I” + shall be  Following it is the first form of verb (V1) “go”+ing and then the object |

* Future Perfect

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| **Future Perfect Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + will have/shall have + V3 + Object** |
| **For example: I shall have prepared the notes by tomorrow morning**  In this example, the subject is “I” + shall have  It is followed by “prepared”, which is the third form of Verb (V3) “prepare” and then the object |

* Future Perfect Continuous

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| **Future Perfect Continuous Tense** |
| **Rule: Subject + will have been + V1 + ing + Object** |
| **For Example: She will have been working here since 2015**  Here, the subject is “She” + will have been  It is followed by the first form of verb “work”+ing and then the object |

Given below are a few examples that may help you clarify the future tense concept clearly:

1. She will go to school tomorrow (Simple Future)
2. She will be going to school tomorrow (Future Continuous)
3. She will have gone to school tomorrow (Future Perfect)
4. She will have been going to school tomorrow (Future Perfect Continuous)

Exercises

Fill in the blanks with appropriate form of the verbs.

1.The windows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) open.

2.The boys \_\_\_\_\_\_ (play) outside at the moment.

3.She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (forgot ) her Folder.(use present perfect)

4.He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (work) here for the last three years.

5.I \_\_\_\_\_ (post) a letter yesterday.

6.He \_\_\_\_\_(read) a newspaper when I went to see him.

7.When we arrived,the dinner already \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (begin).

8. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (work) at the company for five years when I got the promotion.(past perfect continuous)

9.I think she \_\_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the examination.

10.He \_\_\_\_\_(stay) with us till Sunday.

11.I \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) the work by that time.

12.On his next birthday,he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (live) in that house for ten years.

Answers

1. are

2. are playing

3.has forgotten

4.has been working

5. Posted

6. was reading

7. had begun

8. had been working

9. will pass

10. will be staying

11. will have complete

12. will have been living