



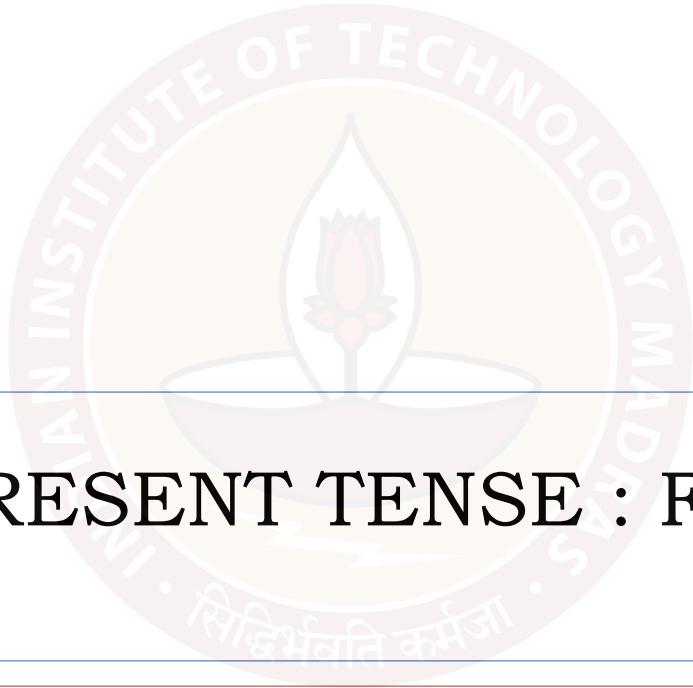
IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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THE PRESENT TENSE : Forms and Meanings

Lida Paul

Simple Present tense

- ▶ Simple present tense often refers to the present time.
- ▶ Following are the major meanings for simple present tense when it refers to present time.
 - i) A state that exists at the present time
Eg. I want a pencil and a pen.
 - ii) A habitual action
Eg. He reads newspaper in the morning.
 - iii) An action that is happening at the present time
Eg. Here comes my friend, Shikha.



Structure of simple present tense

i) She drinks tea in the evening. (Affirmative sentence)

ii) I do not want samosas. (Negative sentence)

She does not make flower bouquets.

iii) Do you sing songs? (Interrogative sentence)

Does she not wear hats?

iv) For interrogative sentences with the wh-words,

What does he like?

Where do you live?



Perfect Aspect in the present

- ▶ It refers to a present state of action in relation to the past.
- ▶ It can provide the following meanings.
 - i) the current event is also a previous event
Eg. It has drizzled all day.
 - ii) Change to the present event is the result of a recent finished event
Eg. The train has finally arrived.
I have learned driving.
 - iii) Present state is a continuation of a past time
Eg. I have owned the scooter for some time.
- ▶ Time adverbials like just, since, for, already, and yet are common with the present perfect tense.



Structure of the present perfect tense

i) The train has finally arrived. (Affirmative sentence)

ii) I have not gone on a holiday for a long time. (Negative sentence)

She has not come home since December 2021.

iii) Has she bought the book yet? (Interrogative sentence)

Have you eaten already?

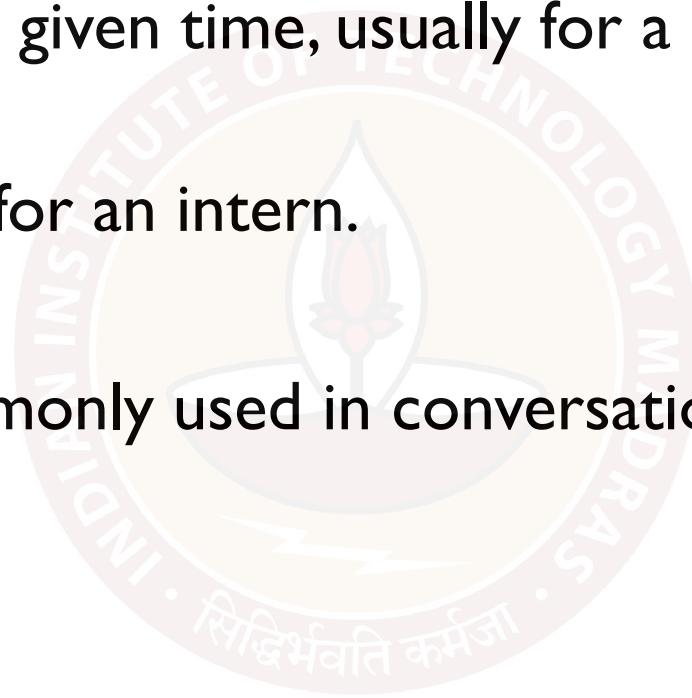


Progressive Aspect in the present

- ▶ The progressive aspect in the present describes activities in progress at a given time, usually for a limited amount of time.

Eg. I'm looking for an intern.

- ▶ It is more commonly used in conversations than in writing.

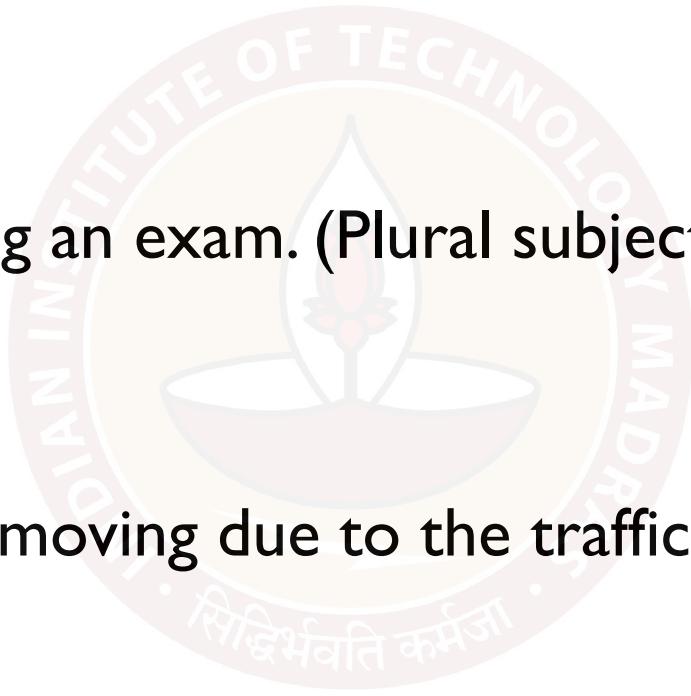


Structure of Present progressive tense

- i) She is eating a mango. (Affirmative sentence)

- ii) They are writing an exam. (Plural subject)

- iii) The car is not moving due to the traffic. (Negative sentence)



Present perfect progressive

- ▶ It is formed by adding the progressive form to the present perfect.
- ▶ It indicates that an action that has begun in the past but continues to the present. However, it helps to add details to this time reference in the following ways.

Eg. The baby has been crying for long. (uninterrupted action)

It has been raining all day and now it is all clear. (recently stopped action)

Recently , I have been practising yoga. (a recently picked up habit)



Structure of the present perfect progressive tense

- i) Amit has been driving the car from Bengaluru to Chennai.
(Affirmative sentence)

- ii) Shirin has not been drinking water and now she is dehydrated. (negative sentence)

- iii) The birds have not been responding to calls lately due to interference from artificial bird calls from the smartphones. (Plural subject)

