

Tenses

A tense is a form taken by a verb to refer to the time of an action. There are mainly three categories of tenses. Each category is given below in detail.

Present Tense

Present tense is used to express an action that is currently going on. It is also used to refer to habitual or usual actions or daily events or universal facts. There are four present tense forms in English. These are:

1. Present simple
2. Present continuous
3. Present perfect
4. Present perfect continuous

Examples:

Present simple: I play football every weekend.

Present continuous: Michael is at university. He's studying history.

Present perfect: I have been to Mumbai long back.

Present perfect continuous: I have been working in Cognizant since June 2012.

Past Tense

Past tense is used to express an action that happened in the past. There are four past tense forms in English. These are:

1. Past simple
2. Past continuous
3. Past perfect
4. Past perfect continuous

Examples:

Past simple: If I had a million dollar, I would help the poor.

Past continuous: He was reading a newspaper while his wife was preparing dinner.

Past perfect: She had left when I arrived.

Past perfect continuous: I had been living in that town for ten years before I moved to New York.

Email Etiquette

Future Tense

Future tense is used to express an action that has not happened yet, but is expected to happen in the future. There are four future tense forms in English. These are:

1. Future simple
2. Future continuous
3. Future perfect
4. Future perfect continuous

Examples:

Future simple: Next week she will be five years old.

Future continuous: She will be working all night.

Future perfect: I will have just entered the university next April when my sister graduates.

Future perfect continuous: She will have been studying in Glasgow for three years by next September.