

Use of Present Tense

Tenses demonstrate the time of action in sentences usually performed by or centered on the subject of the sentence. The actions are called verbs. Verbs change according to tenses and other issues. As verbs are the most important elements of English sentences, tenses also carry paramount importance in English grammar.

Tenses are mainly categorized into three types.

1. Present Tense

2. Past Tense

3. Future Tense

Present Tense

Each of the types of tenses has four different forms:

- Present Indefinite Tense
- Present Progressive (Continuous) Tense
- Present Perfect Tense
- Present Perfect Progressive (Continuous)

Present Indefinite Tense

The **present indefinite** tense, also known as simple present tense denotes a stative or habitual or eternally true action.

Generally, simple present tense is used to indicate an action which happens – *always, regularly, every day, daily, normally, generally, usually, occasionally, sometimes, often, rarely, frequently, nowadays, naturally, seldom, constantly, never, every week, every year, once a year, on a week, at times, at present, now and then, or all the time.*

Structure:

Subject (third person singular number) + verb in simple present form + s/es +

Subject (all other kinds) + verb in simple present form + object

Note: When ‘be’ verbs work as the main verb in a sentence, they are different from the above structures.

Person/Number	Singular	Plural
First	I am a good cricket player.	We are good cricket players.
Second	You are an irresponsible person.	You all are always irresponsible.
Third	The earth is smaller than Jupiter.	Junk foods are not good for health.

There are some stative verbs that are usually used in simple tenses whether present or past or future.

The stative verbs are:

Have	Hate	Appear	Smell	
Understand	Need	See	Want	Sound
Know	Hear	Like	Taste	Own
Believe	Love	Seem	Wish	

Examples:

- I know Billy Bob.
- He understands it.
- They love swinging in the park.
- Some people do not believe in God.
- I usually wake up at 6:00 AM.
- He plays cricket, but his brother plays football.
- Earth is bigger than Mercury.
- The heat of the sun reaches the least to the polar.

How the Forms of Verbs Change in Different Types of Sentences

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I <i>sing</i> on stage.	<i>Do</i> I sing on stage?	I <i>don't</i> sing on stage.
We <i>run</i> behind the train.	<i>Do</i> we run behind the train?	We <i>don't</i> run behind the train.
You <i>are</i> on the roof.	<i>Are</i> you on the roof?	You <i>aren't</i> on the roof.
Allan <i>writes</i> well.	<i>Does</i> Allan write well?	Allan <i>does not</i> write well.
She <i>hands</i> out leaflets.	<i>Does</i> she hand out leaflets?	She <i>doesn't</i> hand out leaflets.
They <i>love</i> dancing in the rain.	<i>Do</i> they love dancing in the rain?	They <i>don't</i> love dancing in the rain.

Present Progressive (Continuous) Tense

The **present progressive tense** is used to indicate the ongoing time (now). However, the stative verbs do not usually take the form of present progressive tense even though they refer to the present time.

Now, continually, perpetually, at this moment, at the moment, right now, this season, this year, forever, etc. words or word pairs are usually signs that the verb in a sentence is in the present progressive form. However, these signs are not necessary all the time for a verb to be of present progressive tense.

Structure:

Subject + am/is/are + verb + *ing* + object

Example:

- I am going to the college field.
- He is coming here for some tips.
- They are making a basketball ground.
- Why are you working in that horrible place? (Interrogative)
- Four teams are playing at this moment.
- John is not joining the class today. (Negative)

This structure is also used to demonstrate future time.

Example:

- Alex is leaving for Portugal.
- I am going to complete my task.
- We are leaving at 6:00 PM.
- They are flying to Australia next month.