

TENSE

in English Grammar:

DEFINITION

TYPES

TENSE

Lecture One

DEFINITION

TYPES

What is a tense?

Definition of Tense:

Definition of Tense in English Grammar: A Tense is a form of a verb that is used to show the time of an action. For example: when an action happened.

How many types of tenses are there in English grammar?

Types of Tense: There are 3 types of tense.

1. Present Tense
2. Past Tense
3. Future Tense

tense

aspect

present

past

future

simple

continuous

perfect

perfect-
continuous



POLL QUESTION

What is a tense?

- a. verb showing time of action*
- b. verb showing date of action*
- c. verb showing frequency of action*
- d. verb showing degree of action*

Answer

Option A

present



Example: **she writes** (see chart 4)

... with present tense endings (grey letters)

past



Example: **she wrote** (see chart 6)

... with past tense endings (yellow letters)

future



Example: **she will write**

... with future tense endings (purple letters)

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POLL QUESTION

Which of these is not a type of tense?

- a) Present*
- b) Language*
- c) Past*
- d) Future*

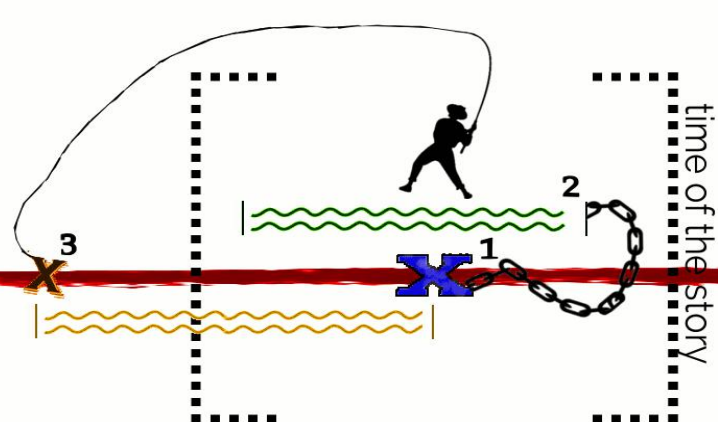
Answer

TENSE
in English Grammar:

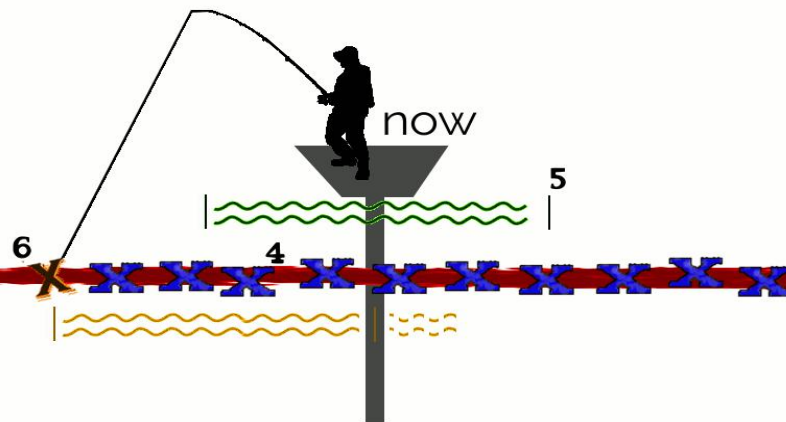
Option B

DEFINITION

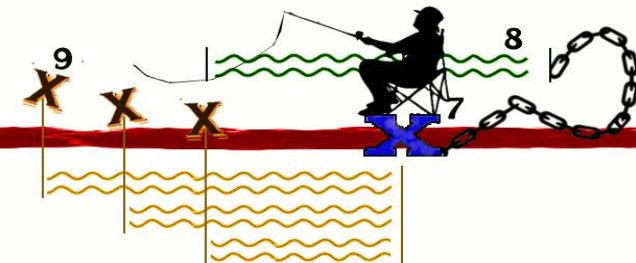
TYPES



PAST



PRESENT



FUTURE

1. Past simple



Describes main events or states in the past

Make sure the speaker and the listener know when this happened.

Use with past time phrases: yesterday, last week, when you were 12

2. Past continuous



Describes the "background" events and actions in the story

Always use with the past simple or another past continuous tense

or

when both the speaker and the listener know the context.

3. Past perfect (and past perfect continuous)



Describes actions and events that happened before the story time

Always use with the past simple

or

when both the speaker and the listener know the context.

4. Present simple



Describes actions that happen regularly

or

statements that are always true

5. Present continuous



Describes actions happening now

Especially:

unfinished actions
changing actions
temporary actions

6. Present perfect (and present perfect continuous)



Describes actions and events that are connected to the present

The time frame started in the past and is continuing.

The effect of a past action is still important now.

The action started in the past and is continuing now.

7. Future simple



Describes single actions in the future

different forms including:

"will"
"going to"

8. Future continuous



Describes long actions in the future

Make sure the speaker and the listener know when this will happen.

Use to describe actions and events that are "under control."

9. Future perfect (and future perfect continuous)



Describes actions that will happen at some point in the future

Always connect it to a specific time in the future.

Good for describing deadlines

POLL QUESTION

A verb describing an action taking place at the moment. Which tense is it talking about?

- a) Present*
- b) Past*
- c) Future*

Answer

Option A

Based on Aspect

Verb tenses may also be categorized according to aspect. **Aspect** refers to the nature of the action described by the verb. There are four aspects:

- Indefinite or Simple
- Continuous or Progressive
- Perfect or Complete
- Perfect Continuous

POLL QUESTION

How many aspects do we have in English tense system?

- a. 3*
- b. 4*
- c. 5*
- d. 6*

Answer

Option B

She **worked**
yesterday.

SIMPLE



She **works**
every day.

She **will work**
again tomorrow.

PROGRESSIVE

She **was working**
at 9 AM this morning.

She **is working**
right now.

She **will be working**
at 6 PM tonight.

PERFECT

When she retired,
she **had worked**
all her life.

So far,
she **has worked**
all her life.








When she retires,
she **will have worked**
all her life.

PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

When she retired,
she **had been working**
for 40 years.

She **has been working**
for 40 years.

When she retires, she
will have been working
for 40 years.

	PAST
Simple	<p>I ate past action I ate at lunchtime</p>  <p>past habit / repeated action I played the violin when I was young</p> 
Continuous	<p>I was eating on-going past action (if interrupted past simple follows) I was eating when she arrived</p>  <p>parallel actions I was writing while she was dictating</p> 
Perfect	<p>I had eaten completed past action before 2nd past action (in past simple) I had eaten before she arrived</p>  <p>duration of completed action I had waited for 2 hours before he arrived</p> 
Perfect Continuous	<p>I had been eating</p>  <p>interrupted on-going past action (past simple follows) I had been eating when she arrived</p>

Tense and Aspect

	PRESENT	FUTURE
Simple	<p>I eat habit / repeated action I eat salad every day facts: The sun rises schedule future event My plane lands at 11.20</p>  	<p>I will eat predicted future action I will visit my grandparents I will be 30 next year</p> 
Continuous	<p>I am eating action happening right now I am eating my lunch planned future action I am going out tonight</p>  	<p>I will be eating predicted future action (if simple tense follows) I will be eating lunch when she arrives</p> 
Perfect	<p>I have eaten past action I have eaten squid twice duration - from past to now I have lived here since 2010</p>  	<p>I will have eaten predicted future action (2nd verb in the present simple tense) I will have eaten lunch when she arrives</p> 
Perfect Continuous	<p>I have been eating action started in the past continuing to now I have been eating cake all day duration - from past to now I have been working here for 3 years</p>  	<p>I will have been eating duration measured at a time in the future I will have been eating for 10 minutes</p> 

Structure

PAST TENSE

SIMPLE PAST

Verb+ ed

I played.
She played.
I didn't play.
Did you play?
He cooked yesterday.

PAST CONTINUOUS

was/were+verb+ing

I was playing.
She was playing.
I wasn't playing .
Was she playing?
He was cooking when the
phone rang.

PAST PERFECT

had+past participle

I had played.
She had played.
She had not played.
Had she played?
He had cooked the dinner
when the phone rang.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

had+been+verb+ing

I had been playing.
She had been playing.
She had not been playing.
Had she been playing?
He had been cooking for a long
time.

POLL QUESTION

Which of these is not a type of past tense?

- a) Simple*
- b) Continuous*
- c) Imperfect*
- d) Perfect*

Answer

TENSE
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Option C

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SIMPLE PAST

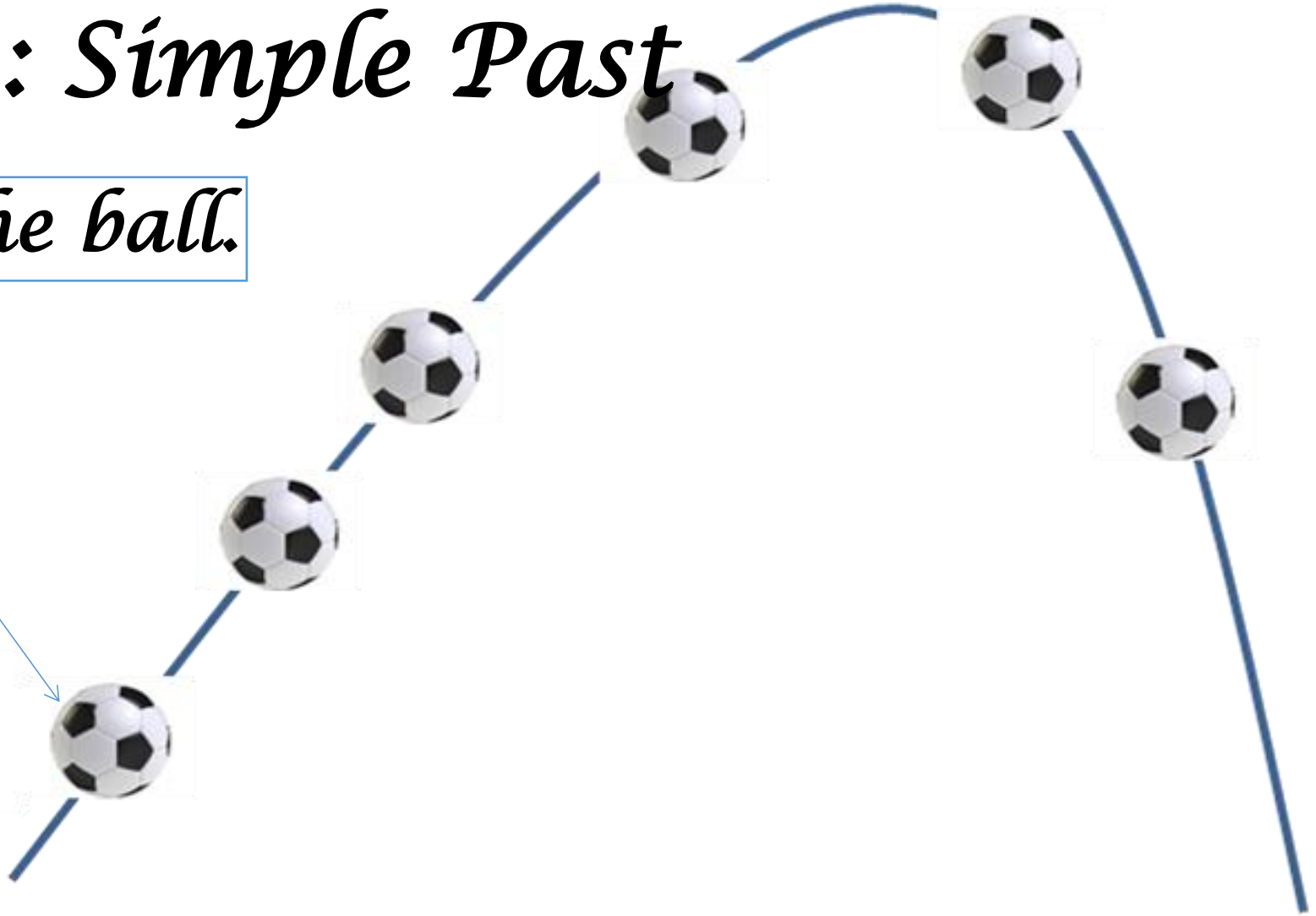
The simple past is a verb tense that is used to talk about things that happened or existed before now. It refers to completed action in the past.

Structure:

Subject + past simple (2nd form of verb)

Example : Simple Past

He kicked the ball.



POLL QUESTION

Sam _____ the marathon for the first time in 2009.

- a. has run*
- b. ran*
- c. is running*
- d. runs*

Answer

Option A

PAST CONTINUOUS

The past continuous tense, also known as the past progressive tense, refers to a continuing action or state that was happening at some point in the past.

Structure:

Was/ Were + -ing word

Explanation of the Past Continuous Tense

Sue started
swimming at
9.00 a.m.



in-between
Sue was swimming



Sue finished
swimming at
10.30 a.m.



Past



POLL QUESTION

To which of these tenses does the following statement belong?

'We were watching television all day.'

- a) Simple past tense*
- b) Past continuous tense*
- c) Past perfect tense*
- d) Past perfect continuous tense*

Answer

Option B

PAST PERFECT

The past perfect, is a verb tense used to talk about actions that were completed in the past.

It refers to the two connected events in the past and represent the action that happened first.

Structure:

Subject+ had + past participle.

The
past perfect
tense is used for
an action that
is completed
before another
action.



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BY THE TIME CHUCK GOT TO
THE BUS STOP, THE BUS HAD
ALREADY LEFT.

POLL QUESTION

Fill in with past perfect tense:

I _____ my homework when my uncle arrived.

- a) completed*
- b) had completed*
- c) was completing*
- d) had been completing*

Answer

TENSE
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Option B

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PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The past perfect continuous tense (also known as the past perfect progressive tense) shows that an action that started in the past continued upto another time in the past.

had been + the verb's present participle (root + -ing).

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

THE ACTION CONTINUED FOR A SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF TIME BEFORE ANOTHER TIME IN THE PAST.



EXAMPLES

MICHAEL HAD BEEN JOGGING FOR AN HOUR WHEN WE ATE.

POLL QUESTION

Which of these statements belongs to past perfect continuous tense?

- a) I was loving*
- b) I had written*
- c) I had been writing*
- d) I shall be writing*

Answer

TENSE
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Option C

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