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BSc Degree

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English- II (Advanced English)

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Tense Aspect Mood

Welcome to class. Today we are going to talk about Tense, Aspect, and Mood. Tense is a very significant and very important grammatical phenomenon in any language, and we will also talk about aspect, which is another significant phenomenon and, of course, mood. So, before we begin, let us understand that verb in any language is the most important constituent of a sentence. Most important. Why is it the most important? Because for any sentence, verb is the nucleus.


So, sentences are structured around the verb. Verb is a very important thing. You cannot have a sentence without a verb. Other arguments like, you know, subject. Important, of course. Verb, important. Direct object depends on whether the verb is transitive or not. Not necessarily, you have direct object all the time. You can have a, you can have something like, you know, this is my watch, I have a watch. So, sentence like this or Shelley runs fast. You know, you don't have to have an object here, direct object here, but you cannot imagine a sentence without a verb.


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Verb

- Every sentence needs a verb.
- Verbs express action, describe an event, or establish a state of being.
- Verbs are influenced by tense, aspect, and mood.
- "Verb tense" refers to when the action occurred. The most common tenses are past, present, or future.
- "Verb aspect" refers to the flow of time. Aspect addresses whether or not the action takes place in a single block of time or if the action is continuous or repeated.
- "Verb mood" refers to the "attitude" of the action. Is the verb actually happening, possibly happening, or being commanded to happen?

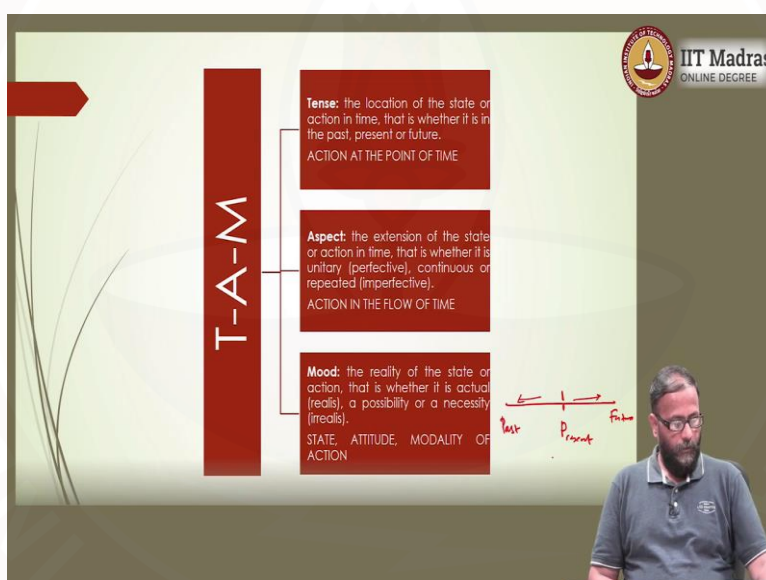
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So, this is the most significant and important phenomena. And verb is the storehouse of a lot of information. So, it contains a lot of information about so many other grammatical elements. So, almost all languages, all human languages, require a verb to form a sentence, and that is why I said that verb is the most important thing in a sentence, and they express action, describe an event, or establish a state of being.

And verb bears the markers or the characteristics of tense, aspect, and mood. So, we get a lot of information from the verb. A single word can contain so many, so much of information, so many things. So, the role of verb is very crucial in a sentence. So, when we talk about tense, when we talk about aspect, when you talk about mood, you know, verb remains at the center of all these constructions not only in English, but also in other languages as well. You can think of your own mother tongue, and can you have a sentence without a verb? Just think.

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The slide is titled 'T-A-M' in a large, vertical, red font. To the right of the title, there are three red boxes with white text:

- Tense:** the location of the state or action in time, that is whether it is in the past, present or future.
ACTION AT THE POINT OF TIME
- Aspect:** the extension of the state or action in time, that is whether it is unitary (perfective), continuous or repeated (imperfective).
ACTION IN THE FLOW OF TIME
- Mood:** the reality of the state or action, that is whether it is actual (realis), a possibility or a necessity (irrealis).
STATE, ATTITUDE, MODALITY OF ACTION

Below the boxes, there is a horizontal timeline diagram with three points labeled 'Past', 'Present', and 'Future'. A red arrow points from 'Past' to 'Present', and another red arrow points from 'Present' to 'Future'.

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So, today we are going to talk about tense, aspect, and mood. If you look at the timeline, if you draw, let us say a line. So, we draw a line and let us say this center is present, then on the left, we have past, this is present, and this is a future. On a timeline, something that happened before the time of speaking is past. Something that is happening or happens while we speak is present here. And something that is going to take place, this has not taken place and is going to take place in some time to come is future. So, on a timeline, we can have three-way contrast- past, present, and future.

And all languages have some or the other mechanism to express or indicate the time of the action. So, when it happened, it has happened in the past, or does it happen at the time of

speaking, or is it going to happen in some time to come? So, all languages have some mechanism to express time of the action or the state.

Now, but not necessarily, all languages have three-way tense, tense contrast, or three-way time contrast. So, semantically or meaning-wise, they, they express time, but the verb in that particular language may not be inflected according to the time or tense. So, for example, in English, I have go-which is present, went-which is past. Do we have a form in English verb to denote future? Think about it. So, English verbs inflect for present and past, but what about future?

How we express time in English for future? So, you must be familiar, we use will and shall, modal verbs or modal categories to express time. But sometimes, we use time adverbials. So, we do not have the verb inflected for present in English. So, we use time adverbials, I am going to Mumbai next week. So, here the information about the time is contained in the time adverbial, next week.

The Prime Minister arrives tomorrow. Prime Minister arrives tomorrow. If you look at the verb, it does not give any clue whether it is present or future. It seems it is present. But the meaning wise, semantically, logically, the sentence is not present. Why? Because we have a time adverbial- tomorrow.

So, that means it indicates future. So, Prime Minister arrives tomorrow is a future sentence. If I say I am going to Mumbai next week, I have future reference. I am referring to my going to Mumbai next week, which is yet to come. So, it is not present, it is not past. So, languages have multiple ways to you know, describe, to indicate, to express, to represent, time. So, when we talk about tense, it is the verb which gives us the clue- whether it is present, it is past, or it is future.

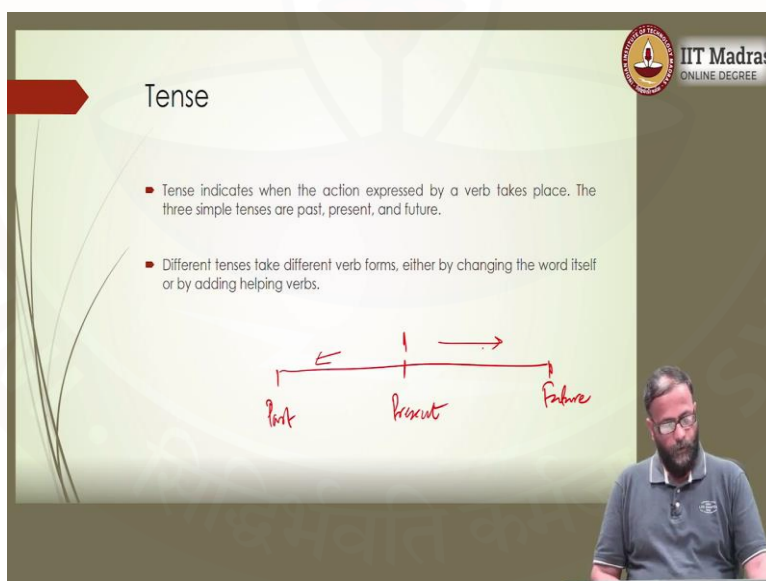
And this time is understood in terms of the sentence being, the time when the sentence is being uttered or spoken. So, at the time of speaking, if this incident or event has already taken place, it is past. If it is taking place or takes place repeatedly, at the time of speaking, it is present and if it refers to some time to come, it is future.

So, in English, we have three tenses- present, past, and future. So, tense in a language represents or indicates the location of the state of action in time. That is whether it is in the past, present, or future. So, tense means action at the point of time, at certain point of time. So, it denotes timeline of the action.

When we talk about aspect, it talks about the manner in which this action is being carried out. The state of being is being represented. So, it refers to the flow of time. So, tense refers to point of time, whether it is past, present, or future. But the aspect refers to the flow of time in a particular event, whether it is over or in progress or it has already been finished, or it is started but still continuing. So, it, it talks about the state of the action in the time flow, we call it aspect, and mood refers to the attitude of the action, the state of the action, or the modality of the action.

So, whether it is real, possible, anticipated, hypothetical, whatever, or this actually is being commanded, requested. So, such kind of things. So, those are the modality, the state, or the attitude of the action contained in the verb or of the verb is called mood. So, when we talk about point of time, of the verb, it is tense. When you talk about the process or the state, whether it is finished or in progress, so, flow of time, it refers to flow of time, tense refers to point of time, and mood refers to attitude or modality of the verb or action. So, we will understand this phenomenon with some examples.

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Tense

- Tense indicates when the action expressed by a verb takes place. The three simple tenses are past, present, and future.
- Different tenses take different verb forms, either by changing the word itself or by adding helping verbs.

Timeline diagram showing Past, Present, and Future points on a horizontal axis with arrows indicating the flow of time.

So, for example, tense. We will start with tense. As I said, tense expresses timeline, the point on the timeline. So, if we take an imaginary timeline, so we have three possible points. So, point on the left from the center is past, this is present, and this is future on this timeline. So, if the action happens some somewhere towards the left of it, that means the action has already been completed, event has taken place. It is past when the action is still taking place at the time of speaking or takes place repeatedly, it is future, sorry, it is present and when the action

So, this is simple tense, simple tense, and if you look at the verb go, present form of the verb. So, it is simple present. It is repetitive in nature, I go everyday. Progressive, if I say, I am going to market. So, the action is continued in progress, my going to market, the event, the action is in progress, at the time of speaking.

So, this is progressive and if you look at this compound together, am go plus ing suffix. So, this ing suffix tells us that this is in progress. So, I am going to market, am is verb be. So, I am... I am going to market, is present progressive, or you can say present continuous So, tense is present, aspect is continuous. I am going to market, I am learning music, tense is present. Am verb be indicates that it is present. Learning, ing suffix indicates that it is in progress. So, aspect is progress.

So, progressive aspect, continuous aspect. So, the aspect of the verb is continuous, and the tense of the verb is present. So, it is present continuous or present progressive. If I say, I have finished my work. If you look at the sentence, I have finished my work. Look at the verb finish, you have a suffix ed, which is a past forming suffix.

However, the tense is located in this have. So, tense is present, and third form of the verb denotes perfection. Complete, completed, so it denotes completion. So, if you look at the tense of the sentence, it is present. So, you have to look at this entire chunk, have finished. This has the information. So, it says present, and the third form of the verb denotes that the work is over, completed.

So, I have finished my work, we have present tense and perfect aspect. So, aspect is perfect, completed. So, this is perfect, present perfect tense. If you look at that fourth, the fourth one, perfect continuous or progressive, that means, two aspects are blend together. It is perfected and is still continuous.

So, if I say something like I have been learning, I have been learning music for five years, I have been learning music for five years. Look at the entire verb composition. This is the verb. So, have I told you, represents the tense, present. Been, is a third form of the verb, just like the finished, it denotes perfection or completion of the work. The learning again, ing form, it denotes continues or progressive aspect. So, you get the markers of both the aspects, perfect aspects, and progressive aspect or continuous aspect.

So, this is how we have, have that contains the tense, been that contains one aspect, which is perfective in nature, and third is progressive or continuous aspect. So, two aspects, one tense.

So, you have, I have been learning music for five years means, I started learning music. So, the learning of music was completed, beginning of was completed, I started somewhere five years down the line, five years back I started learning, and the process is still continuous.

So, it blends two aspects. So, the beginning or the starting of learning music was perfected five years back, and it continues, progressive aspect, till the time I am speaking. So, it is present progressive, present perfect progressive, present perfect continuous. See, if you look at the verb, the verb tells you about tense, and the verb tells you about the aspect.

Similarly, you can have, so these are the examples of present aspects, you can have past aspects like, I went to my office yesterday. I went to my office yesterday, went, the second form of the verb denotes past. In progressive, I was listening to music last evening. I was listening to music. I was listening to Jagjeet Singh last evening. So, I was reading, let us say, Shakespeare last night. I was watching news last evening. So, past, watch, indicates the past. It contains the information about the time, point of time passed, I was and watching, watch the verb plus ing form denotes continuous aspect.

So, I was watching news last evening. If you want to have an example of past perfect, so, tense is past, aspect perfect. I had reached office at 10 yesterday, or maybe I had finished my work before 12 yesterday. Had denotes the tense past and finished as you know perfective aspect. So, past perfect. There may be a possibility that you have two consecutive actions occurring at the same time or one after the other in the past. One little early, later, the other one a little later.

Something like, the patient... So, let us say two situations, the patient died, and the doctor arrived. So, these two events happened in the past, but when we combine the two, which is one after the other, the event which occurs before the first one will be in perfective aspect like, the patient had died before the doctor arrived.

The patient had died before the doctor arrived. So, two things happening together. One will be in perfect aspect, and the other will be in simple aspect. So, the patient died, doctor arrived. So, you say the patient had died because the death took place before the doctor arrived, and if you want to have an example of past perfect continuous, I had been learning music for five years. Had contains the tense which is past.

Been, the third form of be verb contains the perfective aspect, and learning, ing, learn with ing denotes continuous aspect. So, past perfect continuous and you can have examples in

future as well, where you have, I will go or I shall go, we shall go, we shall overcome. In English, English verbs are not inflected for future.

So, if you look at the verb, it looks like a present verb. But the tense is encoded in the modal category, modal verb will and shall. So, in order to denote tense, we use will and shall, the modal verbs. So, we shall reach by 6 o'clock in the evening. So, possibly when you are speaking, it is not, it is before 6 o'clock.

So, when I am referring to a time, point of time, which is in future and tense is located or indicated by, located in or indicated by the modal verb, will or shall. So English uses modal verb will and shall to denote tense that is future tense point of time. So, shall is used with the first person, ing, will elsewhere, with the rest of the sentences, with the rest of the subjects. Conventionally now, you may find that the user shall is not in fashion or not in vogue. It has changed. People are using will all the time.

However, this modal verb contains information about the tense. Because if you look at the verb, it looks like I go to office every day. I will go to office tomorrow. Will go together has information about the tense. Whether go indicates symbol or indefinite simple aspect, will indicate the tense, future tense. If I want to make aspect continuous or progressive in future, so I can say, I will be going.

So, I need to have ing form. If you recall that progressive aspect is denoted by ing form. So, I will be going, because the, you know the rule, modal verb will not allow go to take any suffix or any kind of inflection because verb has to be in its bare form. With any of the modals like can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should... all these are modal verbs and modal verbs will not allow any verb to change its form. It has to be without the particle to bare infinitive.

We call it bare infinitive, because verb here is without to, infinitive to go, to come, to sing, to learn, to read. This is infinitive. But when you drop the particle to, here it is called bare infinitive. So, verb remains an infinitive, but to, is not attached to it. So, with all modal verbs, we do not have any other thing in the verb. So, verb remains in its bare form. But if I have to make it a progressive aspect, then what do I do? I cannot say something like you know, I will going. I cannot say that, I will going to office tomorrow. No.

So, I need to have a host, which can satisfy the requirement of the modal verb, then ing form can be taken by the main verb. So, if you look at the semantic content, it is with the main

verb. If you look at the tense, indication of tense or the representation of tense, it is it with the modal verb. So, we need a verb with the modal verb, to satisfy the modal verb requirement, whether the verb remains in, in its original form, bare form.

So, that is why be, a fictitious verb is added here, inserted here. So that the main verb can take ing form. So, when I say, I will be going to office tomorrow, so I am indicating future progressive, satisfying all the requirements. Requirement number one, the modal verb will cannot allow the main verb to take any suffixation like ing, progressive aspect marker. So, we have to have a verb in its bare form.

So, we insert a verb be in its bare form. So, I will be. Now it is completed, satisfied. Then we need to have progressive aspect. So, the main verb will take ing form attached to it, it is an under progressive marker. So, ing is attached to go. Going. It becomes going. So, I will be going to market. So, this is how we create or reconstruct future progressive structures.

Hypothetically, I can indicate or construct a sentence that indicates perfective aspect in future. Logically it looks very uncomfortable that something which is yet to, which has not happened. When we say perfective, that means that thing has taken place. But it is hypothetical that... by 2020 I will have completed this work.

So, I am hypothesising, I am imagining that by the end of 2020, I will be able to accomplish this work. In real life, we hardly use future perfective aspect or future in a perfect continuous, perfect progressive aspect. Very rare. But technically, structurally we can form. So, when we say, I will have finished. So, remember will will not allow any verb to take any form.

So, have has to be there and completed. So, I will have completed my work. Verb 3 represents the perfective perfection of the actual perfective aspect. I will have completed this work by next year or by 2022. The future perfect continuous or perfect progressive can be created structurally, but we hardly use it, but the rule is the same.

So, I will have been learning music...xyz...whatever you want to say. Will, have, been learning. So, will contains the future. It denotes future, it represents future. Have, perfective aspect, have and another fictitious verb be is added here, because it has to take the third form. So, been and then learning, ing form attached to the main verb, learn, to denote progressive aspect.

So, perfective aspect and progressive aspect both are represented, and we create future perfect progressive or future perfect continuous. But looking at the nature of language, we

usually, as a user of language avoid complex structures, because we tend to have, we tend to simplify things.

So, future perfect continuous or future perfect progressive is rare, and we do not find it in at least oral transactions, we hardly find it in any written text. But scheme wise we can create future perfect progressive. So, what have we learned so far? We have learned that there are two aspects, there are two manifestations, which are denoted by or which are indicated by the verb. One is tense, the other is aspect.

Tense refers to point of time on the timeline. So, when this action is taking place, aspect refers to the state of the action in the flow of time. So, how it takes place, has it been completed or is it continuous, so on. So, tense and aspect are encoded in every English verb. We can easily identify. Moving on.

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Mood

- Mood refers to the the degree of necessity, obligation, or probability. Mood can be expressed in any verb tense. The three main moods used in English are:
- Indicative, [used for factual/plain statements]
 - The PM arrives tomorrow.
- Subjunctive, [for hypothetical situations, emotions, or making requests]
 - If I were a king.....
- Imperative, [command, request, advice]
 - Abide by the rules.

We go to mood. So, what is mood? It refers to the degree of necessity, obligation or probability. So, it can be expressed in any verb tense. The three main moods that we use prolifically in English are indicative, number two subjunctive and number three imperative. These are the three main moods in English.

When we say indicative, that means it refers to all kinds of plain, simple, informative and factual statements that we give, which contain some information. Like the Prime Minister arrives tomorrow. If you look at this tense again, I told you the verb indicates present, but the word tomorrow- time adverbial- indicates that this action is yet to take place.

So, on the timeline, it is not at the time of speaking, it has not taken place. It is not taking place that means future and mood is indicating it is a simple statement. Earth revolves around the Sun. Simple statement. Universal truth. I love ice cream, simple statement. So, these are all such kinds of sentences, where you have information. The statements, all simple sentences, are in indicative mood.

So, whatever examples we have given earlier, in all the aspects, while talking about aspect, they are all in indicative mood. Whether it is in past or present or future all in indicative mood. Subjunctive mood that refers to a hypothetical situation or an imaginary situation. So, something like, if I were a king. If you take an example, if I were a king.

So, I am not a king, if you look at the factual value of it, truth value of the sentence, I am not a king, but I imagine, this hypothetical situation. If I were a king and then we say... so any kind of meaning which refers to some hypothetical situation or emotions, exclamations are in subjunctive mood, and the third one is imperative. Imperative refers to, imperative sentences refer to a kind of sentences where somebody is commanded, requested or advised to do something.

So, any kind of order, any kind of request, any kind of advice. So, such sentences are in imperative mood. So, mood refers to the attitude or modality of this verb. So, if say something like, abide by the rules, let us have an example, abide by the rules. That means it is a suggestion, or in certain cases, it can be order.

Get out of this room. Do not. Prohibitions. Do not walk around, do not enter this, do not trespass. So, any kind of prohibition, order, request, advice they are in imperative mood. So, we have learned three significant concepts in English. Tense, which refers to point of time, aspect which refers to the action in the flow of time. Whether it is perfect, continuous, or started and is still continuing.

So, it refers to the action in the flow of time. Tense, verb refers to the point of time on the timeline and mood refers to modality or attitude of the action that in the sentence. So, these three concepts, and we will continue discussing about these things and it is not a very complicated concept. We have to only keep in mind that all languages have some mechanism to denote and represent time of the action which is tense, process of the action, state of the action which is aspect and attitude or modality of the action, which is mood. So, they have different mechanisms to do so. We just learnt about tense aspect and mood in English. You can think of tense, aspect and mood in your own mother tongue. That will help you relate

with such concepts as particular typical, significant grammatical category. So, this is it for now. Thank you very much.

