

Tenses

Tenses at a Glance

Tenses	Usage	Words of Identification	Sentence formation
Present Indefinite Tense (Simple Present)	To express routine, universal truth, habits, processes, facts	always, seldom, daily, every day, etc.	Affirmative sentences [Subject (III person, sing.)+ V ₁ s/es+object] [Subject (pl.)+ V ₁ + object] Negative sentences [Subject(III person, sing.)+does not+V ₁ +object] [Subject(pl.)+don't+V ₁ +object] Interrogative sentences Do/does+subject+V ₁ +object?
Present Continuous Tense (Present Progressive)	To express continuity of action in present	at this time, now, still	Affirmative sentences Subject+is/am/are+V ₁ ing+object Negative sentences Subject+is/am/are+not+V ₁ ing+object Interrogative sentences Is/am/are+subject+V ₁ ing+object?
Present Perfect Tense	To express completion of an action in present/recent past.	yet, so far	Affirmative sentences Subject+has/have+V ₃ +object Negative sentences Subject+has/have not+V ₃ +object Interrogative sentences Has/have+subject+V ₃ +object?
Present Perfect Continuous Tense	To express the completion and continuity of an action	since/for + time	Affirmative sentences Subject+has/have+been+V ₁ ing+object +since/for +time Negative sentences Subject+has/have+not+been+V ₁ ing+object +since/for +time Interrogative sentences Has/have + subject + been + V ₁ ing + object +since/for + time?

Past Indefinite Tense (Simple Past)	To express an action of distant past	yesterday, last year, ago, etc.	Affirmative sentences Subject+V ₂ +object Negative sentences Subject+did not+V ₁ +object Interrogative sentences Did+subject+V ₁ +object?
Past Continuous Tense	To express continuity of action in the past	yesterday at this time/while, when, etc.	Affirmative sentences Subject+was/were+V ₁ ing+object Negative sentences Subject+was/were+not+V ₁ ing+object Interrogative sentences Was/were+subject+V ₁ ing+object?
Past Perfect Tense	To express completion of action before another action of the past.	before/after	Affirmative sentences Subject+had+V ₃ +object Negative sentences Subject+had not+V ₃ +object Interrogative sentences Had+subject+V ₃ +object?
Past Perfect Continuous Tense	To express completion of action as well as continuity of action in the past.	since/for + time	Affirmative sentences Subject+had been+V ₁ ing+object+Since/for+time Negative sentences Subject+had not been+V ₁ ing+object+Since/for +time Interrogative sentences Had + Subject + been + V ₁ ing + object + Since/for + time?
Future Indefinite Tense (Simple Future)	To express an action in the future	tomorrow, next	Affirmative sentences Subject+will/shall+V ₁ +object Negative sentences Subject+will/shall+not+V ₁ +object Interrogative sentences Will/shall+subject+V ₁ +object?
Future Continuous Tense	To express continuity of an action in the future	tomorrow, at this time, etc.	Affirmative sentences Subject+will/shall be+V ₁ ing+object Negative sentences Subject+will/shall not+be+V ₁ ing+object Interrogative sentences Will/shall+subject+be+V ₁ ing+object?

Future Perfect Tense	To express the completion of an action in the future	before/after	Affirmative sentences Subject+will/shall+have+V ₃ +object Negative sentences Subject+will/shall/not + have+V ₃ +object Interrogative sentences Will/shall+subject+have+V ₃ +object?
Future Perfect Continuous Tense	To express the completion of an action as well as continuity of an action in the future.	since/for time	Affirmative sentences Subject+will/shall have +V ₁ ing+object +since/for +time Negative sentences Subject+will/shall not have+been+V ₁ ing +object+since/for+time Interrogative sentences Will/shall+Subject+have been+V ₁ ing +object+since/for+time?

◆ Sequence of Tenses:

1. According to the Sequence of Tenses the tense of the verb in a subordinate clause follows the tense of the verb in the Principal Clause.

2. There are two main rules for the Sequence of Tenses.

Rule No. 1. If the verb in the Principal Clause is in the Present or Future Tense, the verb in the Subordinate Clause may be in any tense, according to the sense; for example:

Present or Future	what he is doing. what he was doing. what he will be doing. what he had done. what he will have done.
I know	
or	
I shall/will know	

Rule No. 2. If the verb in the Principal Clause is in the Past Tense, the verb in the Subordinate Clause must also be written in the corresponding Past Tense, for example:

1. I knew he was telling a lie.
2. He worked hard so that he might pass.

There are, however, some exceptions to this rule.

(i) If the verb in the Subordinate Clause expresses some universal truth or habitual action, it is always in the Present Tense, even if the verb in the Principal Clause is in the Past Tense; for example:

1. The old father told his sons that union is strength.
2. I was sorry to hear that he has a bad temper.

(ii) If the verb in the Subordinate Clause is introduced by the conjunction of comparison ‘than’, the verb may be of any tense, even though there is Past Tense in the Principal Clause, for example:

1. She liked him more than she likes you.
2. He helped us more than he helps his relatives.

Note 1. If the comparison is expressed by “as well as” instead of “than”, the same rule holds good. Any tense may be followed by any tense, according to the sense intended by the speaker. For example,

1. He likes you as well as he liked me.
2. He will like you as well as he has liked me.

Note 2. If no verb is expressed after “than” or after “as well as”, the tense of the verb understood in the subordinate clause is the same as that of the verb expressed in the principal clause. For example,

1. He liked you better than (he liked) me.
2. He will like you as well as (he will like) me.

Note 3. The word “lest”-“that not”. The only auxiliary verb that can be used after “lest” is should, whatever may be the tense of the verb in the principal clause. For example,

Principal clause		Subordinate Clause
Present	He goes,	<input type="checkbox"/> lest he should see me. <input type="checkbox"/> or that he may not see me.
Past	He went,	<input type="checkbox"/> lest he should see me. <input type="checkbox"/> or that he might not see me.
Future	He will go,	<input type="checkbox"/> lest he should see me. <input type="checkbox"/> or that he may not see me.

(iii) If the Subordinate Clause is an adverbial clause of place or reason, sequence of tenses may be in any tense according to the tense/sense implied, for example:
He failed because he has weak health.

Rule No. 3. The conjunctions 'as if' and 'as though' always take 'were' in the subordinate clause, whatever the tense in the Principal Clause, for example:

1. He talks as if he was mad.
2. He worked as though he were a giant.

Fill up the blanks by using the correct tense form of the verbs given in brackets.

Question 1.

- (a) We (go) to Guwahati by Rajdhani Express last month.
- (b) Rajdhani train (be) a fully air-conditioned train.
- (c) It (provide) food, cold drinks, water, and the blankets at night.
- (d) The journey (be) cool. It imparted solace to the soul and mind.
- (e) On the opposite, there (be) a priest.
- (f) He (be) in the church of Patna for the past twenty years.
- (g) I was informed that he (read) a book.
- (h) He did not say when he (come).
- (i) I hope that you (pardon) me soon.
- (j) He taught me that good deeds (b) never lost.

Answer:

- (a) went
- (b) is
- (c) provides
- (d) was
- (e) was
- (f) has been
- (g) had been reading
- (h) would come
- (i) will pardon
- (j) are

Question 2.

- (a) Arjun (be) a good friend of Lord Krishna.
- (b) He never (want) to fight with his brother Duryodhan.
- (c) It was Krishna who (inspire) Arjun by giving him Upadesas of Gita.
- (d) Arjun (bow) before his Guru and then he started fighting.
- (e) The Mahabharata (write) by Ved Vyasa Ji.
- (f) The Mahabharata (be) an epic.

Answer:

- (a) was
- (b) wanted
- (c) inspired
- (d) bowed
- (e) was written
- (f) is

Question 3.

- (a) Malaria (be) caused by female Anopheles mosquito.
- (b) They (be) also called carriers.
- (c) When a Mosquito (bite) a person, the microbes enter into the bloodstream.
- (d) We should (keep) the surrounding clean to avoid the breeding of mosquitoes.
- (e) Disease-causing microbes (be) called pathogens.
- (f) Yeast (be) a friendly microbe.

Answer:

- (a) is
- (b) are
- (c) bites
- (d) keep
- (e) are
- (f) is

Question 4.

Last week I (a) (visit) the trade fair. It (b) (inaugurate) by the President of India. I (c) (accompany) by my friend who (d) (come) from the U.S.A. last week. He (e) (live) in the U.S.A. since last five years. He (f) (do) his M.B.A. from the New York University.

Answer:

- (a) visited
- (b) was inaugurated
- (c) was accompanied
- (d) had come
- (e) has been living
- (f) is doing

Question 5.

Kate Middleton may (a)(be) looked dainty and fairy-like in her wedding gown but (b) (talk) doing the rounds (c) (be) that the'dress bore a striking similarity with Grace Kelly's wedding outfit. Royal wedding fans couldn't (d)

(help) noticing that both the brides (e) (wear) dramatic gowns with similar V-shaped necklines and long white lace sleeves at their respective weddings, (f) (report) the New York Daily.

Answer:

- (a) have
- (b) talks
- (c) are
- (d) help
- (e) wore
- (f) reports

Question 6.

- (a) Mrs Talwar (live) in a village.
- (b) She (be) three children.
- (c) Her hobby.....(be) singing and praying in solitude.
- (d) She (love) to look after the poor children.
- (e) Her children (be) abroad.
- (f) She (be) a staunch devotee of Lord Krishna.

Answer:

- (a) lives
- (b) has
- (c) is
- (d) loves
- (e) are
- (f) is

Question 7.

Honey, amla, gums, resins, tubers and tamarind; all these and more (a) (come) from forests and (b) (find) their way into our lives. But the tribals who (c) (pluck), dig and extract them get a pittance. Now, the government (d) (decide) to provide a minimum support price (MSP) for some select forest produce on the lines of wheat and paddy. The step could (e) (help) around 40 million tribal families which still (f) (depend) part or whole year on income from forests.

Answer:

- (a) come
- (b) have found
- (c) pluck
- (d) has decided

- (e) help
- (f) depend

Question 8.

A new study has (a) (find) that birds living in cities (b) (be) larger brains while species with smaller brains (c) (find) almost exclusively in rural locations. Researchers at Sweden's Uppsala University (d) (look) at 82 bird species in central European cities and in the surrounding countryside and (e) (found) that birds with relatively large brains, such as crows and magpies (f) (inhabit) urban areas.

Answer:

- (a) found
- (b) have
- (c) are found
- (d) have looked
- (e) have found
- (f) inhabit

Question 9.

When I (a) (be) sixty years old, I (b) (be) open a club. All the members (c) (be) a share in it. It (d) (be) comprise forty members who should be fifty-plus in age. Health centre, swimming pool, and a dancing floor (e) (be) be the features of that club. Membership fees (f) (be) 5 lacs.

Answer:

- (a) will be
- (b) will
- (c) will have
- (d) will
- (e) will
- (f) will be

Question 10.

Peddacheppalli (a) (become) a habitation after Pakistani Kapu brothers who (b) (come) from Northern India, (c) (cut) down a forest and (d) (level) it, and hence the village (e) (name) Peddacheppalli after the eldest of the brothers. Sage Agastya (f) (live) here for some time.

Answer:

- (a) became
- (b) came

- (c) cut
- (d) levelled
- (e) was named
- (f) lived

Question 11.

With the onset of Kaliyuga, none (a) (perform) pooja and the area (b) (turn) into a forest with wild shrubs and mud hills (c) (form) on the Shivlingam. When chappals (d) (get) trees cut down for (e) (form) a village, a valmeekam (f) (surface) and local people offered prayers.

Answer:

- (a) performed
- (b) turned
- (c) formed
- (d) got
- (e) forming
- (f) surfaced