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Business English

Grammar

1

Grammar

- Grammar is the science that deals with the correct use of language both in conversation and writing.
- English grammar provides guidelines for choosing words, arrangement of words, and punctuation of sentences. We do most of our thinking with word symbols. If we cannot arrange word symbols correctly, we probably cannot think clearly and probably cannot communicate effectively.
- English is widely regarded as one of the most difficult languages in the world to master—it contains over 1 million words--the existence of grammatical rules to define word use and sentence structure makes it both easy as well as complex to master.
- Every grammatical rule has an exception!!

2

Did you know?

10% of the world's population speak English as their mother tongue (Chinese 21%,

Spanish 6%, Russian 6%, Malay 4%, Hindi 4%, Japanese 3%, Arabic 3%, Portuguese 3%, French 2%, German 2%)

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3

Parts of Speech

The parts of speech are eight in number:

Noun Adjective Pronoun

Is a word used as the name of a person, place or thing. Mumbai is a big city. Modifies or describes a noun or a pronoun. E.g. A **beautiful** girl. Pronoun is a word used in place of one or more nouns. It may stand for a person, place, thing, or idea.

Verb Adverb Preposition

Expresses action performed by a noun (subject of the sentence). E.g. I **ride** a horse. Modifies or describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb. E.g. I ate **quickly**.

Conjunction Interjection

A word that joins words or a group of words. E.g. and, but, or... Word expressing emotion. E.g. Oh!, wow!, alas!

A preposition shows the relationship between two nouns in a sentence or relates a noun to other parts of the sentence. E.g. The book is **on** the table.

4

Parts of a Sentence

A Sentence has two parts: A Subject and a Predicate.

Example:

Subject

Predicate

Mary Ram

has a little dog. likes sweets.

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The children

go to school.

has, likes and go are action words called verbs.

5

Basic Sentence Structures

English has three main sentence types: **Declarative Sentences** are used to form statements.

Example: "Mary is here."

Interrogative Sentences are used to ask questions.

Example: "What is your name?"

Imperative Sentences are used for commands.

Example: "Come".

6

Types of Sentences

- Sentences may be simple, compound or complex. For example:
 Mary likes sweets. (Simple)
- I get up at 7 a.m. and go for a walk. (Compound)
- Before I reached the station, the train had left.(Complex)
- In Complex sentences two or more simple sentences, which are so united that one member is the main one, the backbone and the other members subordinate to it, or dependent on it.

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Example: We had to return early because we had some problems. We had to return early. (Main clause)

Because we had some problems.(Dependent clause)

7

Types of Sentences

- In *interrogative sentences* the verb comes before the subject.
- Are dogs faithful?
- Can I come tomorrow?
- Why are you late?
- In *imperative sentences* the subject need not be mentioned.
 - Come here.
 - Sit down.
 - Open the door.
- In *negative sentences*, in the past tense the main verb does not change. I wrote the email. (*affirmative*)
- I did not write the email. (negative)

8

Auxiliary Verbs

- Auxiliary Verbs are used in conjunction with main verbs to express shades of time and mood.
- Types:
- I can do it in the morning.
- She may not like your proposal.

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- PrincipalAuxiliaries
- Modal Auxiliaries
- Semi-modal Auxiliaries
- Principal Auxiliaries- to be, to have, to do

They combine with participles or infinitives to form the tenses of verbs.

He has finished his work.

9

Modal Auxiliaries

Modals express

- Ability:Icanrun.
- Necessity:Imustrun.
- Obligation:loughttorun.
 Permission:Maylrun?
- Possibility: Hemightrun.

will, shall, can, may, need/need not, would, should, could, might, must, ought (to)

- Theyexpresspermission,possibility,orders.
- Theyhavenocontinuousformi.e. 'ing' cannot be added to them. In the 3rd personsingular 's' is not added to the severbs

e.g. He can, She must etc.

10

Modal Auxiliaries

Permission

- May and can are used for permission/request in the present or future forms.
 Can I borrow your book please?
- May I leave the room, please?
- Could is used for permission in the past.
- We could bring our dog to the restaurant.
- We could sleep late on Sundays.
- May is considered more formal than can.

11

Modal Auxiliaries

Possibility

- *May/might*areusedtoexpresspossibility. *Might*indicateslesserpossibilitythanmay.
- He may tell his wife.
- He might not tell his wife. Couldasanalternativeto may/might.
- WhereisTom?
- He could/may/might be in the library.
- · Eachmodalindicatesadifferentdegreeofpossibility. Ability
- Can is used to express ability.
- He can complete his work.

12

Modal Auxiliaries

Obligation

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Oughtto, should, have to and must are all used to indicate different degrees of obligation. • Ought to/should is used to express the subject 's obligation or duty.

Necessity

- We ought to obey laws.
- We should obey our parents.
- Must and have to indicate an external authority.
- They also give the impression that the obligation is fulfilled.
- You must reach Delhi on time.
- You have to complete your work.

13

Modal Auxiliaries

- Should is used in formal notices.
 Candidates should be prepared to answer questions...
- Ought/ should may also express advice. You should read this.
- For a more emphatic advice must is used. You must read this.
- Need not expresses absence of obligation. You need not attend the meeting.
- Must not expresses negative obligation or emphatic advice.
 You mustn't repeat this to anyone.

14

Semi-Modal Auxiliaries

To need, to dare, and used to

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These can be used as both ordinary and auxiliary verbs. • Dare as an auxiliary is used to express indignation.

- How dare you open my letters?
- Used to is applicable only for past actions/events.
- I used to go for walks regularly.
- Need as an auxiliary is generally used in the negative or interrogative.
 - He need not come home.
 - Need I take the test?

15

Articles

- An article is placed before a noun and functions to limit the noun. It either limits a noun to a single entity or points out a particular noun.
- The adjectives 'a' or 'an' and 'the' are called articles.
- A' or 'an' is called the Indefinite Article, because it leaves indefinite the person or thing spoken of;
- e.g. A student; that is, any student.
- 'The' is called the Definite Article, because it points out some particular person or thing; e.g. **The** student remained absent. e.g. It means **the** particular student.

16

Articles

- 'A' or 'an' is used before a singular countable noun, the choice between 'a' or 'an' wholly depends on the pronunciation of the word.
- The article 'a' is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound and 'an' is used before a word beginning with a vowel sound.

Add the right Articles

| apple |
|---|
| ewe |
| egg |
| hour |
| honorable man |
| European |
| island |
| |
| one rupee coin |
| heir |
| MD |
| IVIE |
| MP MBA MLA university SPM |
| MBA MLA university SPM |
| |
| MBA MLA university SPM umbrella boy |
| MBA MLA university SPM |
| MBA MLA university SPM umbrella boy one eyed monster orange |
| MBA MLA university SPM umbrella boy |
| MBA MLA university SPM umbrella boy one eyed monster orange |
| MBA MLA university SPM umbrella boy one eyed monster orange woman |

'The' is used in the following ways:

- When you speak of a particular person or thing or one already referred to;
 This is the book he gave me.
- This is the pen which I found on the ground.
- · When a singular noun is used to indicate a whole class; as,
- The cow is a useful animal.
- The bird has a boat shaped body.
- Before the names of certain well known books; as,
- The Vedas, the Bible, the Mahabharata, the Ramayana.
- Before the names of oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, deserts, island groups;
- The Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, the Ganga, the Sahara, the Himalayas, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

'The' is used in the following ways:

- BeforethenamesofNewspapers,Magazines
 TheTimesofIndia,theFrontline
- Beforethenamesofmonuments, buildings
- *The*TajMahal, *the*RashtrapathiBhavan
- Beforemusicalinstruments
- Theflute, the violin
- Beforethenamesofpeople
- The Punjabis, the Dutch
- AsanAdverb
- The fewer *the* better
- Beforenounsindicatingwhatisunique
- The sun, the moon, the sky, the earth, the equator etc.

- Beforeanadjectiveinthesuperlativedegree
- Michael is the tallest boy in the class.

'The' is used in the following ways:

- The is used before certain adjectives to give a plural meaning.
- the rich = rich people
- the poor = poor people
- Before 'only' and ordinal numbers, such as first, second, millionth etc.
- All the students of the first year are invited
- The second example is not correct Before the dates of months.
- The 23 October, 1949, the 15th August

Omission of 'The'

- The is omitted before a common noun used in the widest sense. Woman is kindhearted generally
- Man is not mortal
 Before material nouns.
- Gold is a precious metal Usually before proper nouns.
- Hyderabad is the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Before abstract nouns used in the general Sense.
- Honesty is the best policy.
- · Before plural nouns which are used to denote a class.
- Historians study old monuments for research purposes.
- 'The' is not used before the words bed, hospital, temple, prison, court, school, university, college etc when they are used

for their primary purpose.

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- We go to university for higher studies.
- Christians go to church every Sunday.

Indefinite articles - a and an

Indefinitearticlesareusedbeforenounsthatintroducesomethingorsomeonet hathasnotbeen mentioned before.

- I saw an elephant this morning.
- I ate a banana for lunch.
- Indefinitearticlesareusedwhentalkingaboutaprofession.
- He is an English teacher.
- I am a builder.
- Indefinitearticlesareusedwithcountablenouns.
- I ran into a post. (How many posts did you run into? Just one. Therefore, use a.) It is also used with nouns that are generic in nature.
- · Ahorsehasfourlegs.
 - 'A'or'an'isusedbeforeasingularcountablenoun.
 - Beforeasingularcountablenounwhichisusedasanexampletoreprese ntaclass.
- Acowisausefulanimal.
 - Withcertainnumbers:ahundred,athousand,amillionetc.
 - 'A'canbeusedbeforeMr./Miss/Mrs.+Name.

'a' or 'an' is not used before:

• Anarticleisnotusedbeforenounswhentalkingingeneralterms. • Inflation is rising.

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Anarticleisnotusedbeforeuncountablenounswhentalkingaboutthemgener ally. • Information is important to any organization.

- Pluralnouns:abooks,auniversities,adinnersetc. Uncountablenouns:anadvices,aninformation.
- Namesofmeals:
- Letushavedinner(correct).
- Letushaveadinner(incorrect).

Anindefinitearticlecanbeusedbeforenamesofmealswhentheseareprecede dbyanadjective. • She gave me a good breakfast at 8 p.m.

Subject Verb Agreement

- Every sentence in the English language has a subject the person or thing being spoken about and a verb describing an action done by/ received by the subject or describing the state of the subject.
- The verb that we use must agree with our subject, in terms of its person and/or number, i.e. whether the subject is singular or plural.
- Simply put, a singular subject needs a singular verb and a plural subject needs a plural verb.

A Basic Table

Person 1st person

State Verbs Present

State Verbs Past

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Action Verbs Present

Action Verbs Past

I WE

Am/have Are/have

Was/had Were/had

Play/do/don't Play/do/don't

Played/did/didn't Played/did/didn't

2nd person

YOU

Are/have

Were/had

Play/do

played/did

3rd person

HE/SHE/IT THEY

Is/has Are/have

Was/had Were/had

Plays/does/ doesn't Play/do/don't

Played/did/didn't Played/did/didn't

SVA Rules...

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Wheneverweusedo/don't/does/doesn't/did/didn'tinasentence,thehelpingv erbwillalwaysbe'have'even if it's a singular third person.

• He doesn't have a pen. • Does she have a pen? • He didn't have a car.

Also,ifweusedo/don't/does/doesn't/did/didn'tinasentence,themainverb(ac tion)willalwaysbeinthe first form even if it is past tense.

- He doesn't play cricket.
- She didn't do this (past).
- I didn't go to the market yesterday (past).
- Whentwosubjectsarejoinedby 'and', the verbisplural. My friend and his father often go abroad.

Ifthetwonounsrefertodifferentpersonsorthings, article 'the' is used before each noun, in such cases the verb will be in the plural form.

• The secretary and the president were given a warm welcome.

SVA Rules...

- If two different singular nouns express one idea, the verb should be in the singular form. Bread and butter is an Englishman's staple diet.
- Rice and curry is my favorite dish.
- When two singular subjects are practically synonymous the verb should be in the singular form.
- The law and order situation in the state is under control. His power and influence is on the decline.

- When two singular nouns joined by 'and' refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular. The secretary and treasurer has been arrested.
- Our mentor and benefactor is here.

SVA Rules...

- Indefinite pronouns like *everyone*, *anyone*, *someone*, *none*, *everything*, *something*, *anything*, *nothing*, *each of* and *every one* of seems to be plural, but they take a singular verb.
- Everyone has to finish his or her job. None of us is interested.
- Someone plays music all night.
- Nothing seems to be working.
- None of the pens is writing well.
- Anythingthatisinteresting, is also annoying. Each of us has to take responsibility.

Iftwoormorenouns/pronounsarejoinedbytheconjunction'AND',weneedtou seapluralverb. • He and I are good friends

• AdamandSachinplaycricketwell.

SVA Rules

- The verb that accompanies pronouns such as 'all' and 'some' will be determined by whether the pronoun is referring to something countable or uncountable.
- Some of the people have voted (people is countable). Some of the coffee was spilled (coffee is uncountable).

- Verbs to be used with fractions is determined by whether the noun is countable or not.
 One-fourth of the crop was destroyed.
- One-half of the students are absent.
- Majority of the people are in favor of this.
- Out of the total votes counted, fifty percent are in favor of him.

SVA Rules

- In sentences with co-relating conjunctions such as *either...or*, *neither...nor* & *or*, the verb is determined by the subject closest to it.
- Either he or his friend is going to the party.
- Neither the King nor his subjects have courage.
- Either he or I am playing tomorrow's match.
- Neither the Principal nor the students are at fault. Sunil or his friends are already there.
- When *either* & *neither* is used without their counterparts or & nor, the verb is always singular. Either of the jobs is fine with me.
- Neither of the lights is working.
- Either of us has to leave work early.

SVA Rules

- Phrases such as, as well as, together with, along with etc. are not conjunctions and the verb is determined by the first noun/pronoun in the sentence.
 - Bob, as well as his friends, is going to the party.
 - I, along with my parents, am going out.
 - Hard work, together with dedication, makes a man successful.

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- Phrases like 'a number', 'a few', 'a lot', 'all of' etc. take plural verbs.
- Phrases like 'the number', 'the lot', 'the few' etc. take singular verbs. A number of people are stupid.
 - A lot of birds were flying.
 - A few people are seen.
 - The number of days in a week is seven.
 - The lot of items was made in Germany.
 - The few things available is not enough.

SVA Rules

- Whencollectivenounsaretreatedasasingularentity, the verbissingular.
- Whentheyaretreatedasbeingmadeupofindividualentities, theverbisplural.
- Theherdofbuffalosisrunningfast.
- Allthebuffalosintheherdarerunningfast.
- When two singular subjects are preceded by 'each' or 'every', and even though they are connected by the conjunction 'and', the verb should be in the singular form.
- Every boy and girl was present in the class yesterday. Every man and woman on the cruise was frightened.
- When two singular nouns are connected by 'either-or' or 'neither-nor', the verb should be in the singular form.
- Either a bomb or a carton was the reason for panic. Neither Ram nor Rahim is responsible for this act.

SVA Rules

• When the subjects are joined by 'either-or' or 'neither-nor', are of different persons, the verb will agree in person to the subject nearest to it.

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- Neither you nor he is blameworthy.
- Either you or I am responsible for this mistake.
- Neither the company nor you are precipitating the issue.
- When the subjects joined by 'either-or' or 'neither-nor', are of different numbers, the verb will agree in number to the subject nearest to it and the plural subject must be placed nearest to the verb.
 - Either my uncle or his sons are willing to purchase the property.
 - Either the Chief Minister or the Cabinet Ministers are responsible for this problem.

SVA Rules

- Whentheconjunctionswith,togetherwith,aswellas,areusedtocombinetwosubjectstheverbagrees with the subject mentioned first.
- The man as well as his family members has gone out. The directors as well as the MD have gone out.

When 'notonly.....butalso' is used to combine two subjects the verbagrees with the subject close to it. • Not only the teacher but also his pupils were murdered.

- Nonecantakeasingularorpluralverbdependingonthenounwhichfollowsit.
- None of the counterfeit money has been found.
- None of the students have finished the exam yet.

Nocantakeeitherasingularorpluralverbdependingonthenounwhichfollowsit . • No example is relevant to this.

No examples are relevant to this.

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SVA Rules

- Collective nouns are treated as singular. In some cases they are plural if the sentence indicates that the individual members are acting separately.
- The team has met, and it has accepted the proposal.
- The crowd was wild with excitement.
- Congress has initiated a new plan to combat inflation.
- The family living next door often quarrel among themselves.
- 'Amounts' and 'quantities' take singular verbs. Units of time, money and distance also take singular verb. Names of subjects like, Economics, Linguistics, and Civics etc. take a singular verb.
- Two thousand rupees is not a small sum.
- Where is that ten dollars I lent you last week?
- Fifty kilometers is too long a distance to commute daily.

Prepositions

Aprepositionshowstherelationshipbetweentwonounsinasentenceorrelate sanountootherpartsof the sentence.

Prepositions of Time: At, on, and in

- Weuseattodesignatespecifictimes.
- The train is due at 12:15 p.m.
- Weuseontodesignatedaysanddates.
- My brother is coming *on* Monday.
- We're having a party on the Fourth of July.

- Weuse in fornonspecific times during aday, amonth, as eason, or a year.
 She likes to jog in the morning.
- It's too cold in winters to run outside.
- He started the job *in* 1971.
- He's going to quit in August.

Prepositions of Time: at, on, in

- Weuseatforspecificaddresses.
- John lives at 55 East Road in Durham.
- Weuse**on**todesignatenamesofstreets, avenues, etc. Her house is *on* East Road.
- Weusein forthenamesoflandareas(towns,counties,states,countries,andcontinents).
 She lives in Durham.
- Durham is *in* Windham County.

Prepositions of Movement: To

- Weuse**to/towards**inordertoexpressmovementtowardaplace. They were driving to work together.
- This is a big step *towards* the project's completion.
- We're moving toward the light.

Prepositions of Movement: No Preposition

- With the words home, downtown, uptown, inside, outside, downstairs, upstairs, we use no preposition.
 - Grandma went upstairs
 - Grandpa went home..
 - They both went outside.

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Prepositions of Time: for and since

- We use for when we measure time (minutes, hours, days, months, years..)
 He held his breath for seven minutes.
- She's lived there for seven years. We use **since** with a specific date or time
- He's worked here since 1970.
- She's been sitting in the waiting room since two-thirty.

Idiomatic Expressions with Prepositions

```
agree to
argue about
a matter,
with a person,
for or against a proposition
correspond
to a thing, with a person
differ from
live at
a proposal, with a person, on a price,
in principle
an unlike thing, with a person
```

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• • • •

an address, in a house or city, on a street,

with other people

Some Common Prepositions

- approval of
- awareness of
- belief in
- concern for
- confusion about
- desire for
- fondness for
- grasp of
- need for
- participation in
- reason for
- respect for
- success in
- understanding of
- afraid of
- careless about
- familiar with
- happy about
- interested in
- jealous of
- made of
- similar to
- sorry for
- apologize for
- ask about
- ask for
- bring up
- care for
- find out
- look for

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Active and Passive Voice

- Wordsdenotingactioni.e. VerbsmayeitherbeintheActiveorPassivevoice.
- Insentenceswritteninactivevoice, the subject performs the action expressed in the verb E.g.
- Thewatchmanopenedthegate.
- Insentenceswrittenin**passivevoice**, the subject receives the action expresse dintheverb. E.g. The gate was opened by the watchman.

Active and Passive Voice

Meera wrote the poem(Active).

Transitive

Intransitive

- Sentenceswithobjectshavetransitiveverbs.
- Sentenceswithoutobjectshaveintransitive verbs.
- Sentenceswithtransitiveverbsmaybe expressed in either active or passive voice.
- Sentenceswithintransitiveverbsmaybe expressed only in active voice.
- The poem was written by Meera (Passive).
- Priyacried(cryisanintransitiveverb).
- Birdsareflying(fly-intransitiveverb).

Uses of Active voice

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Passive (more wordy)

Active (more concise)

By then, the soundtrack will have been completely remixed by the sound engineers.

By then, the sound engineers will have completely remixed the soundtrack.

Action on the bill is being considered by the committee.

The committee is considering action on the bill.

Passive (indirect).

Active (direct).

The brakes were slammed on by her as the car sped downhill.

She slammed on the brakes as the car sped downhill.

Your bicycle has been damaged.

I have damaged your bicycle.

Passives have their uses too...

- Toemphasizeontheeffectratherthanthepersonwhocausedtheeffect. After a delayed discussion, the plan was accepted by the ruling party.
- Tokeepthefocusonthesubjectconsistent.
- The corporate accounting team recently presented what proved to be an innovative proposal to expand its staff.

After a short discussion, the proposal was endorsed by..

• To describe a situation in which the person who is responsible for the action is unknown or unimportant. • If magnesium is exposed to oxygen, it ignites immediately.

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- To be evasive by not naming the actor.
- The procedures were somehow misinterpreted.
- Tocreateanauthoritativetone.
 - Students are not allowed to enter the premises after 9:00 p.m.
 - Keep off the lawn.

45

TENSE

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

Simple Present/Past

keep/kept

is/was/kept

Present/Past Continuous

is/was keeping

is/was being kept

Present/Past Perfect

has/had kept

has/had been kept

Future

will keep

will be kept

Tenses

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- Tense of a sentence gives us the time reference, i.e. whether the information is in the present time (present tense), the time which has gone by (past tense) or the time which is yet to come (future tense).
- Tense of a sentence is always indicated by its verb and not by any other part of speech.
- Knowing which tense to use when is very important and leads to clarity in speech and writing.

Types:

• Every tense can be divided into simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous.

1.

Simple

Rule: No auxiliary verb + Past Tense

Rule: No auxiliary + Present Tense

Rule: Will or shall + Present Tense

Past Tense

Present Tense

Future Tense

I danced yesterday We danced yesterday

I dance today We dance today

I shall dance tomorrow We shall dance tomorrow

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You danced yesterday

You dance today

You will dance tomorrow

He danced yesterday She danced yesterday

He dances today She dances today

He will dance tomorrow She will dance tomorrow

It danced yesterday They danced yesterday

It dances today They dance today

It will dance tomorrow They will dance tomorrow

2. Continuous

Rule: was or were + Present Participle

Rule: am/is/are + Present Participle

Rule will/shall + be + Present Participle

Past Tense

Present Tense

Future Tense

I was eating yesterday

I am eating today We are eating today

I shall be eating tomorrow We shall be eating tomorrow

We were eating yesterday You were eating yesterday

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You are eating today He is eating today She is eating today It is eating today They are eating today

You will be eating tomorrow He will be eating tomorrow She will be eating tomorrow It will be eating tomorrow They will be eating tomorrow

He was eating yesterday

She was eating yesterday

It was eating yesterday

They were eating yesterday

3 Perfect

Rule: Had + Past Participle

Rule: Have/has + Past Participle

Rule: will/shall + have + Past Participle

Past Tense

Present Tense

Future Tense

I had eaten yesterday We had eaten yesterday

I have eaten today We have eaten today

I shall have eaten tomorrow

You had eaten yesterday

You have eaten today

You will have eaten tomorrow

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He had eaten yesterday She had eaten yesterday

He has eaten today She has eaten today

He will have eaten tomorrow

It had eaten yesterday They had eaten yesterday

It has eaten today They have eaten today

It will have eaten tomorrow

We shall have eaten tomorrow

She will have eaten tomorrow

They will have eaten tomorrow

4 Perfect Continuous

Rule: had+ been+ Present Participle

Rule: have/has + been + present participle

Rule: will/shall + have +been + Present Participle

Past Tense

Present Tense

Future Tense

I had been playing yesterday We had been playing yesterday You had been playing yesterday

I have been playing today We have been playing today You have been playing today

I shall have been playing tomorrow

He had been playing yesterday She had been playing yesterday

He has been playing today She has been playing today

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He will have been playing tomorrow

It had been playing yesterday They had been playing yesterday

It has been playing today They have been playing today

It will have been playing tomorrow
They will have been playing tomorrow

We shall have been playing tomorrow You will have been playing tomorrow

She will have been playing tomorrow

Present Tense

Simple Present:

Simple present tense is used to describe events that are true in the present time but not necessarily happening at the moment of speaking. Normally it is used in the following situations –

- 1. To describe universal truths/facts:
- Earthrevolvesaroundthesun.
- Nileisthelongestriveroftheworld.
- 2. To talk about regular actions or events:
- Ismoke10cigarettesaday.
 Sheusuallycomeslate.
- 3. To indicate thoughts and feelings at the time of speaking:
- Ithinkyouareright.
- Shedoesn'tlikeshortmen.

Present tense contd...

4. To talk about future events which is a part of an itinerary.

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- I leave tomorrow for the U.S.A.
- The train leaves in two hours.
- India plays Pakistan on Wednesday.
- 5. Is used to express habitual actions, permanent or verified truths or facts (scientific or universal).
- He goes to church every Sunday.
 Water boils at 100 C.
- The sun rises in the east.
- 6. Is used to express a planned future action, or a series of such planned actions.
- We leave Hyderabad at 8:30 p.m. next Tuesday and arrive in New Delhi at 11 a.m. on Thursday.

Is 1.

used to describe events that are happening at the time of speaking.

2.

To describe events that we think will last for a short period of time –

3.

Is used to describe an action that is in progress at the time of speaking-

4.

Is used to describe an action that is in progress and will be continued, but not necessarily going on at the moment of speaking-

Present Continuous Tense...

To describe events that are going on now –

• I am going now. • It's raining.

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- I am looking for a house.
- He's thinking of quitting.
- The children are playing in the garden now.
- The college authorities are building an ewhost el.

Present Continuous Tense...

- 5. Is used to describe an action that is in progress at the time of speaking.
- The children are playing in the garden now.
- 6. Is used to describe an action that is in progress and will be continued, but not necessarily going on at the moment of speaking.
- The college authorities are building a new hostel.
- 7. Can also express an action that has been arranged to take place in the near future and one's immediate plans.
- I am meeting the C.M tomorrow morning. We are going to a movie this evening.

Thereareanumberofverbswhicharenotnormallyusedinthepresentcontinuo ustense. These are:

- Verbs of perception : see, hear, smell, notice
- Verbs used to express feelings or states of mind: want, desire, wish, refuse, forgive, care

,hate, like, admire, love

• Verbs involving the process of thinking : feel, now, mean, remember, forget, recall, etc.

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- Verbs denoting possession : have, own, belong, possess
- Verbssuchas:contain,consist,keep,seems,cost

The following sentences are wrong:

- I am loving that girl.
- They are understanding the lesson.
- I am having a telephone at my residence.

Present Perfect Tense

Is used as a link between the present and the past. It looks at the events of the past from the perspective of now. Some usages of this form are –

- 1. Used to describe events that finished in an indefinite time in the recent past, but the result is true even now:
- I have finished the job.
- Theyhavecancelledthemeeting.
 I've just returned from my trip.
- 2. Used to refer to events in the distant past, but the effect is still there –
- I have an experience of 3 years. I have been to Singapore.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

- This form is used to describe an event which started sometime in the past and is still continuing, i.e. the event is still not finished. It can be used in the following situations –
- 1. When the duration of the activity is specified:
- I have been living here for the last 4 years. She has been absent for the last 5 days.
- 2. When the starting point of the activity is specified:

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- I have been living here since 2000.
- She has been absent since Monday.

Past Tense

Isusedtotalkaboutaneventthathappenedinthepast.Somecommonusagesa re-

- 1. When the event happened at a specific time in the past
- I went to the market yesterday.
- I slept peacefully last night.
- 2. When the event happened over a period of time in the past
- It rained last night for 3 hrs. I worked with them for 5 yrs.

Present perfect vs. Past Simple

- We use the past simple to talk about actions in the past that have finished. It talks about 'then' and definitely excludes 'now'.
- We use the present perfect to look back on actions in the past from the present. It always includes 'now'.

Past Tense contd...

Look at these two sentences -

• IstartedworkingwithInfosysin2005(pastsimple–youmaystillbeworkingwithInfosysormaynot).

I'vebeenworkingwithInfosysforthelast2months/sinceMarch2005(presentperfect—youaredefinitely

1.

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When we want to emphasize the continuity of the event.

2.

But when we want to just to talk about that event as a simple fact, we use simple past.

still working with Infosys).

Past Continuous

We use this form to talk about events that happened over a period of time. We use this form normally -

- Itwasrainingallnightyesterday.
- Iwasthinkingaboutyouthewholenight.
- Itrainedlastnight.
- Ithoughtaboutyoulastnight.

Past tense contd...

- 3. When a continuing event in the past is interrupted by another event also in the past.
- WhenIwaswalkingontheroad,Islippedonabananapeelandfell. She was talking on the phone when the line got disconnected.

Past Perfect

Often called as the past of the past. It is normally used in the following situations.

1. When we are talking about something in past and want to talk an event that happened prior to the first event:

He met her at a party. They had met at a friend's place (which means they first met at a friend's place and then at the party).

2. When an event in the past was completed before a specified time in the past: I had finished the work by 6.30.

Past tense contd...

- 4. When an event in the past was completed before another event started in the past: Ihadfinishedtheworkbythetimemybosscamein.
- BythetimeIreachedthestation,thetrainhadleft.
- 5. When we report what people said/thought/believed: Hetoldmethathehadalreadypaidthebill.
- · Hebelievedhehadwastedachance.

Past Perfect Continuous

Thisformisusedtodescribeaneventthatcontinuedforalongtimeinthepastwhi chwasinterruptedby another event that continued from thereon.

• Avoidusingthisform. Youcanalwaysusethesimplepasttorefertothesame. Only, you might need two – three sentences.

Future tense Future Simple

This is used to indicate an event that has not happened till now, but will take place some time hence. We can use both will and going with this form -

- I will go to the party.
- It is going to rain.
- I will reach there at 5 pm.

Future Continuous

This form is normally used to talk about future events which are already planned or time- tabled –

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I'll be leaving for the USA on Thursday.

Normally we use the simple present or the present continuous to talk about the same.

I'm leaving for the USA on Thursday.

Future tense contd...

Future Perfect

This form is normally used to talk about will be definitely finished at some point in future –

• I will have finished my work by next Monday. • I will have finished this job by 2 pm tomorrow.

Future perfect continuous

We use this tense to talk about an event that has already started and will continue in the future –

• I will have been working for 10 years with this company come December.

To sum up...

• The verb 'have' can be used both as helping verb and as an action verb. It is used as a helping verb normally in present perfect tense.

However, when used as an action verb, it can mean eating, experiences and possession. We need to take care then that the sentence will be a simple present and not a present perfect.

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- I have a pen(possession).
- I have food (eating).
- I have an experience of 3 yrs.
- Also, when used to mean possession or experience, it cannot be used in the continuous form. Only eating can be used that way.
- So, I am having a headache is incorrect and I have a headache is correct.

THANK YOU

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