



Tense

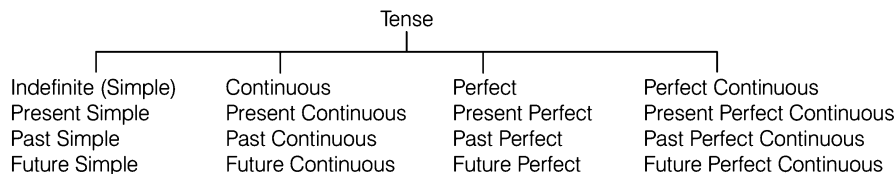
Tense shows the time and mood of a sentence.

Types of Tense

Tense has three types.

1. Present tense
2. Past tense
3. Future tense

These three tenses are further divided into four subtypes.



Simple Tense

In simple tense an action takes place in present, past and future once or regularly.

Present Simple Tense

It expresses habitual and routine actions.

Affirmative Subject + verb¹ + s/es + object. e.g. Rohit writes a letter.

Negative Subject + do/does + not + verb¹ + object. e.g. Rohit does not write a letter.

Interrogative Do/does + subject + verb¹ + object? e.g. Does Rohit write a letter?

Past Simple Tense

It expresses an action that started in past and ended in past.

Affirmative Subject + verb² + object. e.g. I met him yesterday.

Negative Subject + did not + verb¹ + object. e.g. I did not meet him yesterday.

Interrogative Did + subject + verb¹ + object? e.g. Did I meet him yesterday?

Future Simple Tense

It expresses an action that is performed in future time.

Affirmative Subject + will/shall + verb¹ + object. e.g. He will send a letter.

Negative Subject + will/shall + not + verb¹ + object. e.g. He will not send me a letter.

Interrogative Will/Shall + subject + verb¹ + object? e.g. Will he send me a letter?

Continuous Tense

In continuous tense an action is going on at the time of speaking.

Present Continuous Tense

It expresses the action in progress.

Affirmative Subject + is/are/am + verb¹ + ing + object

e.g. Rohit is writing a letter.

Negative Subject + is/are/am + not + verb¹ + ing + object

e.g. Rohit is not writing a letter.

Interrogative Is/Are/Am + subject + verb¹ + ing + object?

e.g. Is Rohit writing a letter?

Past Continuous Tense

It expresses an action that was in progress in past and was going on at the time of speaking.

Affirmative Subject + was/were + verb¹ + ing + object

e.g. The boys were playing in the ground.

Negative Subject + was/were + not + verb¹ + ing + object

e.g. The boys were not playing in the ground.

Interrogative Was/Were + subject + verb¹ + ing + object.

e.g. Were the boys playing in the ground?

Future Continuous Tense

It expresses an action that will be continuous in future time

Affirmative Subject + will/shall + be + verb¹ + ing + object

e.g. Reena will be cooking food.

Negative Subject + will/shall + not + be + verb¹ + ing + object.

e.g. Reena will not be cooking food.

Interrogative Will/Shall + subject + be + verb¹ + ing + object?

e.g. Will Reena be cooking food?

Perfect Tense

In perfect tense an action is recently done in present, past and future.

Present Perfect Tense

It expresses complete action with a present effect.

Affirmative Subject + has/have + verb³ + object
e.g. Rohit has written a letter.

Negative Subject + has/have + not + verb³ + object
e.g. Rohit has not written a letter.

Interrogative Has/Have + subject + verb³ + object?

e.g. Has Rohit written a letter?

Past Perfect Tense

It expresses the action that was completed before the time of speaking.

Affirmative Subject + had + verb³ + object
e.g. She had read the story

Negative Subject + had + not + verb³ + object
e.g. She had not read the story.

Interrogative Had + subject + verb³ + object?
e.g. Had she read the story?

Future Perfect Tense

It expresses an action that is assumed to be completed in future time.

Affirmative Subject + will/shall + have + verb³ + object.

e.g. You will have seen the car.

Negative Subject + will/shall + not + have + verb³ + object.

e.g. You will not have seen the car.

Interrogative Will/Shall + subject + have + verb³ + object?

e.g. Will you have seen the car?

Perfect Continuous Tense

In this tense, an action has already started and still going on at the time of speaking.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

It expresses an action that started in past and is still going on

Affirmative Subject + has/have + been + verb¹ + ing + object + since/for + time.

e.g. Rohit has been writing a letter for ten minutes.

Negative Subject + has/have + not + been + verb¹ + ing + object + since/for + time

e.g. Rohit has not been writing a letter for ten minutes.

Interrogative Has/have + subject + been + verb¹ + ing + object + since/for + time?

e.g. Has Rohit been writing a letter for ten minutes?

(ii) Past Perfect Continuous Tense

It expresses an action that started in past and was still going on at the time of speaking.

Affirmative Subject + had + been + verb¹ + ing + object + since/for + time

e.g. They had been waiting for us since morning.

Negative Subject + had + not + been + verb¹ + ing + object since/for + time

e.g. They had not been waiting for us since morning.

Interrogative Had + subject + been + verb¹ + ing + object + since/for + time?

e.g. Had they been waiting for us since morning?

(iii) Future Perfect Continuous Tense

It expresses an action that is assumed to be going on in future from some time.

Affirmative Subject + will/shall + have + been + verb¹ + ing + object + since/for + time

e.g. Mother will have been cleaning house since 10 O'clock.

Negative Subject + will/shall + not + have + been + verb¹ + ing + object + since/for + time

e.g. Mother will not have been cleaning house since 10 O'clock.

Interrogative Will/Shall + subject + have + been + verb¹ + ing + object + since/for + time?

e.g. Will mother have been cleaning house since 10 O'clock?

Note Verb¹ - 1st form of verb

Verb² - 2nd form of verb

Verb³ - 3rd form of verb

Practice Exercise

Directions (Q. Nos. 1-25) *Fill in the blanks with the suitable options from the following.*

- Ramesh (come) my home to meet me daily.
(a) comes (b) is coming
(c) will come (d) has come
- Some boys in our colony are spoilt they (respect) their elders.
(a) are not respecting
(b) do not respect
(c) will not respect
(d) did not respect
- Yesterday Mohit (buy) a car from the market.
(a) buys (b) has bought
(c) is buying (d) bought
- We called a meeting but nobody (come).
(a) will (b) comes
(c) came (d) has been coming
- He (submit) his from after two days.
(a) was submitting (b) will submit
(c) has submitted (d) submits
- If he starts now, he (reach) his home in time.
(a) is reaching (b) reaches
(c) has reached (d) will reach
- Rajani (jump) on the roof for ten minutes.
(a) will jump (b) is jumping
(c) has been jumping (d) was jumping

- # Answers

[illegible]