

TENSE

2

Learning tense is very important for effective communication in English. Without the sound concept about tense, one cannot make proper sentences and cannot express feelings properly. Therefore, to maintain proper communication both in speaking and writing, tense plays an important role. So, learners should be very careful about learning tense. In this Unit, tense and its categories have been discussed with the rules of making sentences in different tenses and example. The discussion is divided into four lessons where definition of tense and past, present and future tense have been discussed along with their classifications and examples.



Time of completion

2 weeks

Lessons of the Unit:

- Lesson-2.1: Definition of Tense and Categories
- Lesson-2.2: Past Tense
- Lesson-2.3: Present Tense
- Lesson-2.4: Future Tense

Lesson-2.1 Definition of Tense and Categories



Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to :

- understand the definition of tense;
- find out the kinds of tenses;
- identify the examples of different tenses.

Definition of tense

The word 'Tense' has been originated from a Latin word 'Tempus' which means 'Time'.

Notice the below given examples:

*We **played** cricket yesterday.*

*We **are playing** cricket today.*

*We **shall play** cricket tomorrow.*

In the above mentioned sentences, three different tenses have been mentioned. In the first sentence, **played** indicates past tense. This is an example of past tense.

In the second sentence, **are playing** indicate present tense. This is an example of present tense.

In the third sentence, **shall play** indicate future tense. This is an example of future tense.

So, It can be told that tense is a form of a verb that is used to show the time of an action. Tense is the concept of time which may be present, past or future.

Classification of tense

The concept of Tense can be differentiated into three main categories:

1. Past tense:

Past tense indicates incidents which happened in past or which are already done.

Like in the first example, we have noticed an incident (cricket) which was already completed (**played**) on the previous day which refers to past incident once again.

Thus, *We **played** cricket yesterday.* – is an example of past tense.

2. Present tense:

Present tense indicates incidents which usually happen or is happening right now.

Like – in the second example, we have noticed an incident (cricket) which is currently going on (**are playing**) and it obviously indicates present tense.

Thus, *We **are playing** cricket today.* – is an example of present tense.

3. Future tense:

Future tense indicates incidents which will occur in future.

Like – in the third example, we have noticed an incident (cricket) which will be played (*shall play*) on the next day (tomorrow). All of these indicate future incident or future tense. Thus, *We shall play cricket tomorrow.* – is an example of future tense.



Summary

Tense is a form of a verb that is used to show the time of an action. Tense is the concept of time which may be past, present or future. And these are the three main categories of tense. Past tense indicates incidents which happened in past or which are already done. Present tense indicates incidents which usually happen or is happening right now. Future tense indicates incidents which will occur in future. Mainly, the verb of a sentence takes different forms according to different tenses.

Lesson-2.2 Past Tense



Objectives:

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- understand the definition of past tense;
- identify the examples of past tense;
- explain the structure and rules of past tense;
- use conjugation of verb in forms of past tense;
- use past tense properly in your day to day conversation and in writing;
- complete the exercise by yourself at the end of the unit.

Definition of past tense:

Past tense refers to incidents that happened in past.

As –

*I **went** to school.*

*They **won** the championship.*

*She **was trying** to do the math by herself.*

In the above mentioned sentences, some incidents are mentioned (*went, won, was trying*) which indicate that the actions happened in past or earlier. They are the examples of past tense.

Classification of past tense:

Past tense is classified into four divisions:

- i. Past indefinite tense.
- ii. Past continuous tense.
- iii. Past perfect tense
- iv. Past perfect continuous tense.

i. Past indefinite tense –

Past Indefinite Tense indicates an action took place before the present moment and that has no real connection with the present time. As –

*He **played** in the team last year.*

*She **went** to the market yesterday.*

The actions (**played** and **went**) took place in the past, and they are finished and completely unrelated to the present. These are the examples of past indefinite tense.

Note:

- a. The form of Simple Past Tense is - Subject + verb + ed
- b. The verb 'went' is an irregular verb which does not take 'ed' in the past tense like regular verbs.

iii. Past continuous tense –

Past continuous Tense indicates an action going on at some time in the past or an action in the past that is longer in duration than another action in the past. –

*We **were getting** late.*

*Shubho **was watching** cartoon when the phone rang.*

The actions (**were getting** and **was watching**) were taking place in the past and they are completely unrelated to the present. These are the examples of past continuous tense.

Note:

- a. The form of past continuous tense is – Subject +was/were + verb + ing

ii. Past perfect tense –

Past perfect tense indicates an action in the past that had been completed before another time or event in the past. As –

*He **had studied** before the show started.*

*We **had reached** there before she left.*

The actions (**had studied** and **had reached**) had been finished before other events/ actions (*started* and *left*) took place. These are the examples of past perfect tense.

Note:

- a. The form of Past Perfect Tense is- Subject +had + verb (past participle form or the 3rd form of the verb)
- b. The task which took place before, its main verb takes the past participle form and the other verb takes past indefinite form. As –

*The patient **had died** before the doctor came.*

*The train **had left** before we reached the station.*

Here, the actions which took place before are *had died* and *had left* which are in past perfect tense and the other action or verbs are *came* and *reached* which are in past indefinite tense.

iv. Past perfect continuous tense –

Past perfect continuous tense indicates an action in the past that took place before another time or event in the past and continued during the second event/time point in the past. As –

*At that time, he **had been learning** Spanish for five months.*

*I **had been working** at the company for five years when I got the promotion.*

The actions (*had been learning* and *had been working*) had been going on for a certain time in past. These are the examples of past perfect continuous tense.

Note

a. The form of Past Perfect Continuous Tense is- Subject + had + been + verb + ing

Conjugation of Verb 'go' in all forms of Past Tense:

Past indefinite tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I went.	We went.
2nd	You went.	You went.
3rd	S/He went.	They went.

Past continuous tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I was going.	We were going.
2nd	You were going.	You were going.
3rd	S/He was going.	They were going.

Past perfect tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I had gone.	We had gone.
2nd	You had gone.	You had gone.
3rd	S/He had gone.	They had gone.

Past perfect continuous tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I had been going.	We had been going.
2nd	You had been going.	You had been going.
3rd	S/He had been going.	They had been going.



Summary

Past Tense refers to incidents that happened in past. Incidents that happened, were happening, had happened and had been happening for a certain time; all four of them are different classification of past tense. There are some certain rules of making perfect sentences in past tense. Verbs take different form in different categories of past tense.

Lesson-2.3 Present Tense



Objectives:

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- understand the definition of present tense;
- identify the examples of present tense;
- explain the structure and rules of present tense;
- use conjugation of verb in forms of present tense;
- use present tense properly in your day to day conversation and writing;
- complete the exercise by yourself at the end of the unit.

Definition of present tense:

The work which happens or is happening or has just happened or has been happening in the present indicates Present Tense. As –

I eat rice.

I am eating rice.

I have eaten rice.

I have been eating rice for 5 minutes.

Four of these sentences indicate works in present tense through the verbs – *eat, am eating, have eaten, have been eating*. These are the examples of present tense.

Classification of Present Tense

Present Tense can be classified into four parts –

- i. Present Indefinite Tense
- ii. Present Continuous Tense
- iii. Present Perfect Tense
- iv. Present Perfect Continuous Tense

i. Present indefinite tense –

Present indefinite tense indicates an action that is generally true or habitual which means it took place in the past, continues to take place in the present, and will take place in the future. This tense is used to denote

-a habitual action. As –

I go to school.

-general truths. As –

The sun rises in the east.

Honey tastes sweet.

-a future event that is part of a fixed timetable. As –

The show starts at 9 o' clock.

In the above stated sentences, the actions (*go, rises, tastes* and *starts*) happen in the present and they happened in the past and will happen in the future. These are the examples of present indefinite tense.

Note:

a. The form of simple present tense is – Subject + verb (infinitive without 'to' and agreeable with the subject)

b. If the subject is third person singular number the ‘verb’ of the sentence takes an ‘s’ or ‘es’ while forming a sentence of present indefinite tense. As –

He eats rice.

He does not eat rice.

Slow and steady wins the race.

Here, *eats, does not and wins* take place as the subject is third person singular number. *Slow and steady* considered as singular number because if two nouns are joined by ‘and’ refer to the same person or thing or suggest one idea to the mind, the verb is singular

ii. Present continuous tense –

Present continuous tense indicates an action that is taking place at the moment of speaking. As –

She is going to school.

I am studying.

In the above stated sentences, the actions (*is going* and *am studying*) are happening in the present right now. These are the examples of present continuous tense.

Note:

a. the form of present continuous tense is- Subject + is/am/are + verb + ing

iii. Present perfect tense –

Present Perfect Tense indicates an action that has been completed sometime before the present moment, with a result that affects the present situation. As –

He has finished the math.

The baby has slept.

In the above stated sentences, the actions (*has finished* and *has slept*) have happened a few moments back but the affects are still there. These are the examples of present perfect tense.

Note:

a. The form of present perfect tense is – Subject + has/have + verb (past participle form or 3rd form of the verb)

iv. Present perfect continuous tense –

Present Perfect Continuous Tense indicates an action that started in the past and is continuing at the present time. As –

He has been sleeping for an hour.

We have been living here since 1990.

In the above stated sentences, the actions (*has been sleeping* and *have been living*) have been happening for a certain time. The actions have started earlier and still going on. These are the examples of present perfect continuous tense.

Note:

a. The form of Present Perfect Continuous Tense is- Subject +has/have + been + verb + ing

Conjugation of verb 'go' in all forms of Present Tense.

Present indefinite tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I go.	We go.
2nd	You go.	You go.
3rd	S/He goes.	They go.

Present continuous tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I am going.	We are going.
2nd	You are going.	You are going.
3rd	S/He is going.	They are going.

Present perfect tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I have gone.	We have gone.
2nd	You have gone.	You have gone.
3rd	S/He has gone.	They have gone.

Present perfect continuous tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I have been going	We have been going.
2nd	You have been going.	You have been going.
3rd	S/He has been going.	They have been going.



Summary

The work which happens or is happening or has just happened or has been happening in the present indicates Present Tense. There are four categories of present tense. There are some particular rules of making sentences in different categories of present tense. The verb of a sentence takes different forms according to the subject and number in present tense.

Lesson-2.4 Future Tense



Objectives:

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- understand the definition of future tense;
- identify the examples of future tense;
- explain the structure and rules of future tense;
- use conjugation of verb in forms of future tense;
- use future tense properly in your day to day conversation and writing;
- complete the exercise by yourself at the end of the unit.

Definition of Future Tense:

Future tense mentions about an incident which has not yet happened or going to happen in future or about a thing which does not yet exist.

Classification of Future Tense:

Future tense can be classified into four parts –

- i. Future indefinite tense.
- ii. Future continuous tense.
- iii. Future perfect tense
- iv. Future perfect continuous tense.

i. Future indefinite tense –

Future indefinite tense indicates an action that will take place after the present time and that has no real connection with the present time. As –

She will visit her parents soon.
He will go to school.

In the above mentioned sentences, the actions (**will visit** and **will go**) will happen in uncertain future or later. These are the examples of future indefinite tense.

Note:

- a. the form of future indefinite tense is – Subject + will/shall + verb

ii. Future continuous tense –

Future Continuous Tense indicates an action that is going on in the future. As –

He will be going to school.
I will be doing my homework at tomorrow morning.

In the above mentioned sentences, the actions (**will be going** and **will be doing**) will be happening for a period in future or later. These are the examples of future continuous tense.

Note

- a. The form of Future Continuous Tense is- Subject +will/shall be + verb + ing

iii. Future perfect tense –

Future perfect tense indicates an action in the future that will have been completed before another time or event in the future. As –

He will have gone to school by tomorrow afternoon.

I will have completed my assignment by tomorrow evening.

In the above mentioned sentences, the actions (**will have gone** and **will have completed**) will have been happened before a certain action in future or later. These are the examples of future perfect tense.

Note:

a. The form of Future Perfect Tense is – Subject + will/shall have + verb (past participle form or 3rd form of the verb)

iv. Future perfect continuous tense –

Future perfect continuous tense indicates an action in the future that will have been continuing until another time or event in the future. As –

He will have been studying till 10 pm.

According to the forecast, it will have been raining till 5 pm.

In the above mentioned sentences, the actions (**will have been studying** and **will have been raining**) will have been happening before in future or later. These are the examples of future perfect continuous tense.

Note:

a. The form of Future Perfect Continuous Tense is- Subject +will/shall have been + verb + ing

Conjugation of Verb 'go' in all forms of Future Tense.

Future indefinite tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I shall go.	We shall go.
2nd	You will go.	You will go.
3rd	S/He will go.	They will go.

Future continuous tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I shall be going.	We shall be going.
2nd	You will be going.	You will be going.
3rd	S/He will be going.	They will be going.

Future perfect tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I shall have gone.	We shall have gone.
2nd	You will have gone.	You will have gone.
3rd	S/He will have gone.	They will have gone.

Future perfect continuous tense

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	I shall have been going.	We shall have been going.
2nd	You will have been going.	You will have been going.
3rd	S/He will have been going.	They will have been going.

**Summary**

Future tense mentions about an incident which has not yet happened or going to happen in future or about a thing which does not yet exist. There are four different categories of future tense. There are some particular rules of making sentences in different categories of future tense as well. The verb *shall/will* are used along with some other forms of “be” verb in future tense.



EXERCISE

1. What is Tense? Write the classification of tenses and give examples.
2. Choose the correct verb from those in brackets:
 - a. The earth _____ round the sun. (move, moves, moved)
 - b. It was very noisy next door. Our neighbors _____ a party. (has/ have/ were having)
 - c. It started to rain while we _____ cricket. (are playing, had played, were playing)
 - d. I _____ French for five months. (have been learning, learn, am learning)
 - e. The train _____ before we reached the station. (arrives, will have arrived, had arrived)
 - f. I have got some cupcakes. _____ you like some? (do/ did/ would)
 - g. Fortune _____ the brave. (is favouring, will favour, favours)
 - h. I _____ the letter before you arrived. (had written, wrote, will write)
 - i. Slow and steady _____ the race. (win/ wins/ will win)
 - j. Perhaps we _____ Cox's Bazar next month. (visit, will visit, visited)

3. Complete the passage.

Ritu and Shumon ___a___ married. They ___b___ married exactly 10 years ago. So, today ___c___ their 10th wedding anniversary. They ___d___ married for 10 years. They ___e___ celebrate it tonight.

4. Correct the following sentences:
 - a. I just received your letter.
 - b. The patient died before the doctor came.
 - c. I have written a letter to her last Monday.
 - d. She lived in China since 2000.
 - e. The new restaurant has been opened last week.
 - f. I don't think Keya like the present we will give her.
 - g. The train leave the station before I reached there.
 - h. I wish my men had been coming quickly and find us.
 - i. He goes out for ten minutes.
 - j. Mary has a baby recently.

Answer Key

2. a. moves b. were having c. were playing d. have been learning e. will have arrived f. would g. favours h. had written i. wins j. will visit
3. A. are b. got c. is d. have been e. will celebrate
4. a. I have just received your letter.
b. The patient had died before the doctor came.
c. I wrote a letter to her last Monday.
d. She has been living in China since 2000.
e. The new restaurant opened last week.
f. I don't think Keya will like the present we will give her.
g. The train had left the station before I reached there.
h. I wish my men came quickly and found us.
i. He has gone out for ten minutes.
j. Mary had a baby recently.