

Learning English tenses with examples

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Etymology:

The word 'tense' is derived from the old French vocabulary. It's taken from the French word 'temps' which meant time. Almost all the languages with the exception of Burmese and Chinese have 'tense' as part of their vocabulary.

Meaning:

The whole concept of tenses is based on time. It suggests when an event or a verb takes place. The time phase can be in the past, present and future. Accordingly, the different types of tenses in English are future tense, present tense and past tense. There are many subparts that you will come across below.

Usage:

Tenses are used in the verbs to denote the various timelines where the event has occurred. The event may also have a combination of past, present and future, which form the basis for subdivision in tenses.



Rules And Examples Of Tenses And Its Various Types:

The below examples will show you the appropriate way to use tenses along with proper examples.

1. Present Tense

A. Simple Present Tense

The rule is as follows: Singular subject+Verb+s/es

1. He **eats**.
2. He **plays**.
3. He **drives**.
4. I don't **like** what she **does**.

B. Continuous Present Tense

The rule for the continuous present tense is as follows: Subject+is/am/are+verb+ing

1. She **is playing**.
2. They **are playing**.
3. **Are** we not **playing**?
4. He **is coming**.
5. **I am dancing**.



C. Perfect Present Tense

The rule is: Subject+has/have+verb+ed

1. She **has played**.
2. We **have arrived**.
3. **Have** they not **gone**?
4. He **has arrived**.
5. I **have read** this book.

D. Perfect continuous present tense

The rule is: Subject+has been/have been+verb+ing

1. She **has been playing**.
2. **I have** not **been eating** my medicines lately.
3. They **have been waiting** very patiently.
4. It **has been raining** since morning.
5. They **have been walking** for a long time.

2. Past Tense

A. Simple Past Tense

The rule is: subject+verb+ed.

1. She **arrived**.
2. He **came**.
3. They **played**.

B. Continuous Past Tense

The rule is as follows: Subject+was/were+verb+ing

1. I **was driving**.
2. He **was eating**.
3. They **were playing**.

C. Perfect Past Tense

The grammatical rule for perfect past tense is as follows: Subject+had+verb+ed/en.

1. They **had played** this game before.
2. She **had eaten** a lot of mangoes.
3. He **had spoken** to me about him.

D. Perfect Continuous Past Tense

The rule is: Subject+had been+Verb+ing

1. She **had been playing** when he came.
2. They **had been swimming** when it rained.
3. He **had not been eating** when the phone rang.

3. Future Tense

A. Simple Future Tense

The rule is: Subject+shall/will+verb.

1. I **shall drive**.
2. He **will come**.
3. **Shall I play**?

B. Continuous Future Tense

The rule is: Subject+shall be/will be+verb+ing

1. I **shall be driving**.
2. He **will be speaking**.
3. **Will she not be playing**?

C. Perfect Future Tense

The rule is: Subject+shall have/will have+Verb+ed.

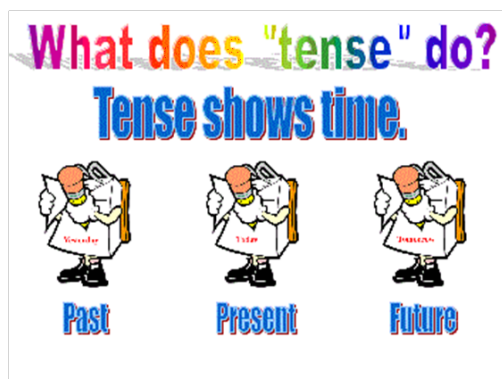
1. She **will have played**.
2. **Will he have played**?
3. I **shall have driven**.

D. Perfect Continuous Future Tense

The rule is: Subject+shall have been+will have been+verb+ing.

1. She **will have been driving**.
2. I **shall have been studying**.

3. They **will have been travelling** over long distances.



The above rules will guide you in the proper usage of tenses. Tenses are the base for [fluent English speaking](#). Make yours stronger with the help of [online English training course](#) to help better your understanding of the English language.

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- By Chander Madan

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