

TENSES

The word **tense** is derived from Latin word “**tempus**” which means time. A verb indicates the time of an action, event or condition by changing its form. Tenses are the form taken by a verb to show the time of an action or the state of an event.

There are three tenses which are:-

- The Present Tense

Present tense expresses an unchanging, repeated, or reoccurring action or situation that exists only now. It can also represent a widespread truth.

- The Past Tense

Past tense expresses an action or situation that was started and finished in the past.

- The Future Tense

Future tense expresses an action or situation that will occur in the future.

Each of the three tenses has four forms or sub-divisions to show continuity or completeness of the action and time. These are:-

- Indefinite/simple

The indefinite tense or simple tense does not indicate whether the action is complete or not, describes an action but does not state whether the action is finished.

- Continuous or imperfect

Continuous tenses, imperfect tense or progressive tenses, describe an unfinished action, that is the action still going on.

- Perfect

The perfect tense indicates that the action is complete, finished or perfect.

- Perfect continuous

The perfect continuous tense it combines the complete tenses and the incomplete tenses, to describe an action which was in progress and the finished, indicates that the action began in the past and is still continuing.

SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

- The **present simple** is used to describe an action, an event, or condition that is occurring in the present. E.g.:- *I play*
- Expresses an action that occurs regularly or habitually. E.g.:- *She goes to the school every day.*

HOW TO FORM SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Subject + verb1 + object

HE, SHE, IT: *s* or *es* is added at the end of the verb.

THEY, YOU, WE, I: The verb is not added *s* or *es*

- Affirmative sentences: *I play*
- Negative sentences: *They do not play*
- Interrogative sentences: *Do they play?*
- Negative interrogative sentences: *Do they not play?*

- Normally singular subject used with *does* in asking question.

Does she go to school every day?

- Plural subject used with *do* in asking question.

Do they play football?

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The present continuous tense is used to express an action which is happening at a particular time in the present or extending over a period of present time. The present continuous tense emphasizes the continuing nature of an act, event, or condition.

HOW TO FORM PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Subject + Is/Am/Are + Verb1 + ing + Object

HE, SHE, IT + IS + VERB1 + ING + OBJECT

He is playing football

THEY, YOU, WE + ARE + VERB1 + ING+ OBJECT

We are playing football

I + AM + VERB1 + ING + OBJECT

I am playing football

- Affirmative Sentences: You are playing.
- Negative Sentences: You are not playing.
- Interrogative Sentences: Are you playing?
- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Are you not playing?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE?

Helping verb (am, is, are) + Subject + Verb1 + ing + Object.

Am + I + play + ing + football?

Is + she + go + ing + to school?

Are + they + read + ing + a book?

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

The present perfect denotes an action that was started in the past and has just been completed, it describes an action, or event that began in the past and has just been completed.

HOW TO FORM PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

Subject + has/have + Verb3 + Object.

HE, SHE, IT + HAS + VERB3 + OBJECT.

He has eaten ugali.

THEY, YOU, WE, I + HAVE + VERB3 + OBJECT.

I have eaten ugali.

Has – Singular, **Have** – Plural.

- Affirmative Sentences: I have eaten.
- Negative Sentences: I have not eaten.
- Interrogative Sentences: Have I eaten?
- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Have I not eaten?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

Helping verb (Have/Has) + Subject + Verb3 + Object.

Have I eaten ugali?

Has she gone to school?

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The present perfect continuous tense is used when an action that started in the past is still continuing. It describes an action, event or condition that has begun in the past and continues into the present.

HOW TO FORM PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE?

Subject + has/have + been + Verb1 + ing + Object.

HE, SHE, IT + HAS + BEEN + VERB1 + ING + OBJECT.

He has been eating ugali

THEY, YOU, WE, I + HAVE + BEEN + VERB1 + ING + OBJECT.

I have been eating ugali.

- Affirmative Sentences: We have been playing.
- Negative Sentences: We have not been playing.
- Interrogative Sentences: Have we been playing?
- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Have we not been playing?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE?

Have/Has + Subject + Been + Verb1 + ing + Object.

Have I been eating ugali?

Has she been playing a game?

SIMPLE PAST TENSE

The simple past is used to describe an action, an event, or condition that occurred in the past. Is used for an action which happened at a particular time in the past.

HOW TO FORM SIMPLE PAST TENSE?

Subject + verb2 + Object.

HE, SHE, IT, THEY, YOU, WE & I + VERB2 + OBJECT.

I played football.

- Affirmative Sentences: I played.
- Negative Sentences: I did not play.
- Interrogative Sentences: Did I play?
- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Did I not play?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN SIMPLE PAST TENSE?

Did + Subject + Verb2 + Object.

Did I play football?

Did they go to school?

PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

The past continuous tense is used for an action which was happening at a particular time in past. Is used to describe an actions ongoing in the past.

HOW TO FORM PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

Subject + was/were + Verb1 + ing + Object.

HE, SHE, IT & I + WAS + VERB1 + ING + OBJECT.

I was playing football.

He was playing football.

THEY, YOU & WE + WERE + VERB1 + ING + OBJECT.

They were playing football.

We were playing football.

- Affirmative Sentences: Boys were playing football.
- Negative Sentences: Boys were not playing football.
- Interrogative Sentences: Were boys playing football?
- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Were boys not playing football?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE?

Was/were + Subject + Verb1 + ing + Object.

Was + I + play + ing + football?

Were + boys + go + ing + to school?

PAST PERFECT TENSE

The past perfect tense is used to express an action that was completed before another action started in the past. It is used with the earlier of the two actions.

HOW TO FORM PAST PERFECT TENSE

Subject + had + Verb3 + Object.

HE, SHE, IT, THEY, YOU, WE & I + HAD + VERB3 + OBJECT.

They had eaten ugali.

He had played football.

- Affirmative Sentences: Sheila had played
- Negative Sentences: Sheila had not played.
- Interrogative Sentences: Had Sheila played?

- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Had Sheila not played?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN PAST PERFECT TENSE?

Had + Subject + Verb3 + Object.

Had + Sheila + gone + to school?

Had + they + gone + to school?

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The past perfect continuous tense is used for an action that began before a certain point in the past and continued up to that point. The past perfect continuous is used to indicate that a continuing action in the past began before another past action began or interrupted the first action.

HOW TO FORM PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Subject + had + been + Verb1 + ing + Object.

HE, SHE, IT, THEY, YOU, WE & I + HAD + BEEN+ VERB1 + ING + OBJECT.

They had been playing football.

He/ She had been playing football.

- Affirmative Sentences: She had been eating rice.
- Negative Sentences: She had not been eating rice.
- Interrogative Sentences: Had she been eating rice?
- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Had She not been eating rice?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE?

Had + Subject + been + Verb1 + ing + Object.

Had + she + been + play + ing + football?

Had + they + been + play + ing + football?

SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE

The simple future is used to refer to actions that will take place after the act of speaking or writing. The simple tense is used for an action that will take place at particular time in the future.

HOW TO FORM SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE

Subject + will/shall + Verb1 + Object.

HE, SHE, IT, THEY, YOU, WE & I + WILL/SHALL + VERB1 + OBJECT

I shall play football

He/She will play football

- Affirmative Sentences: Salha will play netball.
- Negative Sentences: Salha will not play netball.
- Interrogative Sentences: will Salha play netball?
- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Will Salha not play netball?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE?

Will/shall + Subject + Verb1 + Object.

Will + I + go + to school tomorrow?

Shall + we + play + football?

FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE

The future continuous tense is used to express an action which will be in progress at a particular time in the future. The future progressive is used to refer to continuing action that will occur in the future.

HOW TO FORM FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE

Subject + will/shall + be + Verb1 + ing + Object.

HE, SHE, IT, THEY, YOU, WE & I + WILL/SHALL + BE + VERB1 + ING + OBJECT.

I will be playing football.

He/She will be reading a novel.

- Affirmative Sentences: I will be playing.
- Negative Sentences: I will not be playing.
- Interrogative Sentences: Shall I be playing?
- Negative Interrogative Sentences: Shall I not be playing?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE?

Will/shall + Subject + be + Verb1 + ing + Object.

Will + I + be + read + ing + a novel?

Shall + we + be + ride + ing + a bicycle?

FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

Future perfect tense is used to indicate the completion of an action by a certain period of time in the future. The future perfect tense is used to refer to an action that will be completed sometime in the future before another action takes place.

HOW TO FORM FUTURE PERFECT TENSE?

Subject + shall/will + have + Verb3 + Object.

HE, SHE, IT, THEY, YOU, WE & I + SHALL/WILL + HAVE + VERB3 + OBJECT.

She + will + have + played + a game.

I + shall + have + eaten + an apple

- Affirmative sentences: She will have played.
- Negative sentences: She will not have played.
- Interrogative sentences: Will she have played?
- Negative Interrogative sentences: Will she not have played?

HOW TO FORM QUESTIONS IN FUTURE PERFECT TENSE?

Will/shall + Subject + have + Verb3 + Object.

Will + she + have + played + football?

Shall + I + have + eaten + an apple?

FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The future perfect continuous tense is used when an action is to continue up to a certain point of time in the future. The future perfect continuous tense is used to indicate a continuing action that will be completed at some specified time in the future.

HOW TO FORM FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE?

Subject + shall/will + have been + Verb1 + ing + Object.

HE, SHE, IT, THEY, YOU, WE & I + SHALL/WILL + HAVE BEEN + VERB1 + ING + OBJECT.

He + will/shall + have been + play + ing + football.

They + will/shall + have been + read + ing + a novel.

- Affirmative sentences: She will have been playing.
- Negative sentences: She will not have been playing.
- Interrogative sentences: Will she have been playing?
- Negative Interrogative sentences: Will she not have been playing?