

12 Tenses

TENSE

The word tense is taken from **Latin** word (**tempus**) which means time. While some other linguists believe that the word (**tense**) comes from old French word (**tens**) which also means time or era.

Tense: is the form of the verb which shows when an action has happened.

Tense: shows the time of an action.

According to meaning tense is divided into two types

1: According to dictionary

2: According to grammar

1: According to dictionary tense has four functions:

1: According to adjective: tense means anxious or worried.

Ex: I am tense for my exam.

2: According to verb: tense means to make someone say.

Ex: come here or else I will tense you.

3: According to noun: tense means time.

Ex: this is simple past tense.

4: According to adverb:

Ex: He did this work tensely.

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2: According to grammar tense is divided into three families:

1: Past family

2: Present family

3: Future family

Every family has four tenses:

Division of tenses

Tense

Past	Present	Future
Simple past Past continuous Past perfect Past perfect continuous	Simple present Present continuous Present perfect Present perfect continuous	Simple future Future continuous Future perfect Future perfect continuous

Tense is dived in to two parts

1: Active tense 2: Passive tense

1: **Active Tense**: is a tense which the doer of an action is the subject of the sentence.

Ex: Ahmad is going to school now. Alia cleans the dishes.

2: **Passive tense**: is a tense which the receiver of an action is the subject of the sentence.

Ex: house is cleaned. home work is written.

Stages of tenses

There are three stages in each tense.

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1: **Syntax stage**: in this stage we write structure of the tense.

2: **Explanatory stage**: in this stage we write the definition of tense.

3: **Implementing stage**: in this stage we write the examples of the tense.

Motion of Tense:

According to motion tenses are generally divided into two types.

1: Continuous tenses

2: Non – Continuous tenses

1: Continuous tenses:

In English grammar there are six continuous tenses.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Present continuous tense | 4. present perfect continuous tense |
| 2. Past continuous tense | 5. Past perfect continuous tense |
| 3. Future continuous tense | 6. Future perfect continuous tense |

2: Non – Continuous tenses:

In English grammar there are six non – continuous tenses.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Simple present tense | 4. Present perfect tense |
| 2. Simple past tense | 5. Future perfect tense |
| 3. Simple future tense | 6. Past perfect tense |

1: Simple present tense(Present simple tense)

Structure: is a formula which shows how to make example of a tense.

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Usage: is the way which shows where to use or not use a tense.

Structure:

Affirmative form: subject + verb+ s/es/ies+ /comp

Negative form: subject +do/does +not+ verb+/comp

Interrogative form: do / does+ subject + verb+ /comp?

Negative interrogative form: do/does+subject +not +verb+/comp? (formal)

Negative interrogative form: do/does+not+subject +verb+/comp?(informal)

Ex:	Ex:
They go to school every day.	He goes to school every day
They do not go to school every day.	He does not go to school every day.
Do they go to school every day?	Does he go to school every day?
Do they not go to school every day?	Does he not go to school every day?
Do not they go to school every day?	Does not he go to school every day?

Note: it is mentionable that all verbs except auxiliaries take(s/es/ies) at the end of third singular person (he /she/it) of simple present tense only in affirmative form.

Memo: Verbs ending in (s/ss/ch/sh/x/z) take (es) and other verbs take only (s) at the end of the verbs.

Ex: He plays football. Ex: She brushes her teeth every night. Ex: He fixes his car.

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Usages:

Usage 1: it is used to show an action which happens repeatedly in the present.

Ex: Ali goes to school every day. Ex: Hewad goes to Kabul every year.

Note: when simple present tense used in this way it is usually followed by adverbs of frequency. like: always, often, sometimes, never, usually, rarely, seldom...

Adverbs of frequency: show how often an action happen.

Ex: Wali always goes to school.

Ex: They sometimes play cricket.

Ex: He is always sick.

Usage 2: It is used to show habitual action or activity.

Ex: Atiq smokes hashish. Ex: Khyber eats with left hand.

Usage 3: it is used to show existence of person, place or thing.

Ex: Ahmad is at course. Ex: The car is in the garage.

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Usage 4: It is used to show universal and general fact.

Fact: anything that does not need verification is called fact.

Fact: is something which is clear to all.

Fact is divided into two types. 1: General fact 2: Universal fact

1: **General fact:** is a fact which will change in the future.

Ex: The weather is cloudy. Ex: Ahmad is a child.

2: **Universal fact:** is a fact which will never change in the future.

Ex: Milk is white. Ex: Allah is one.

Usage 5: It is used to show a planned future action.

Ex: We have exam tomorrow. Ex: Ahmad goes to America next month.

Usage 6: It can be used in the headlines of newspaper to show past, future, or present action.

A) When it is used with simple form of the verb show past action.

Ex: Ahmad helps with poor people. Ex: Trump comes to Afghanistan.

B) When it is used with (ing) form of the verb shows present action.

Ex: the public people demonstrating against the government

C) When it is used with (to +verb) show future action.

Ex: Ashraf ghani to meet trump in white house.

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Note: the most perfect usage for simple present tense is:

Usage 7: It shows daily, habitually, or regularly action and also shows universal and general fact.

2: Present continuous tense(present progressive tense)

Structure:

Affirmative form: sub + (is, am, are) +verb+ing+comp/.

Negative form: sub+ (is, am, are) +not+verb+ing+comp/.

Interrogative form: (is, am, are) +sub+verb+ing+com/.?

Negative interrogative form: (is, am, are) +sub+not+verb+ing+comp/?(formal)

Negative interrogative form: (is, am, are) +not+sub+verb+ing+comp/?(informal)

Ex:

I am teaching English now.

I am not teaching English now.

Am I teaching English now?

Am I not teaching English now?

Am not I teaching English now?

Rules for adding ing:

1: Verb ending in (e) drop (e) and add (ing)

Ex: make –making take -----taking write ----writing

2: Verb ending in (ee) no change and add (ing)

Ex: agree---agreeing flee -----fleeing

3: Verb ending in (ie) change (ie) to (y) and add (ing)

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Ex: die -----dying tie -----tying

4: One syllable verb ending in consonant following a vowel, double the last consonant then add (ing).

Ex: sit ----sitting run -----running cut-----cutting

5: Verb ending in (c) an extra (k) is added before adding (ing)

Ex: picnic----picnicking

Usages:

Usage 1: is used to show an action which is happening right now.

Note: When present continuous tense is used in this way it is usually followed by adverbs of time. like: now, right now, at the moment, at present ...

Ex: I am writing right now. Ex: Samiullah is studying right now.

Usage2: is used to show the duration of an action which is apparently going on but not necessary at the moment of speaking.

Ex: Ahmad is writing a book. Ex: Ali is working in a bank.

Usage 3: is used to show an action which will take place in the future.

Ex: I am going to Kabul tomorrow. Ex: We are making a party next week.

Note: the present continuous tense is not use with out of control verbs. These verbs are used in simple present tense, followed by adverbs of present continuous tense.

Some of the out of control verbs are:

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Know	understand	Believe	feel	forget	see	Hear	smell	appear	Seem
Cost	become	Have	has	love	like	Wish	Are	Was	want

Ex:

I am smelling a flower now. (incorrect)

I smell a flower now. (correct)

I am understanding it. (incorrect)

I understand it. (correct)

3: Present perfect tense

Structure:

A/F: sub+ have /has+v3+comp

N/F: sub+have /has+not +v3+/comp.

I/F: have /has+sub+v3+comp?

N/I/F: have/has+sub+not+v3+/comp? (formal)

N/I/F: haven't / hasn't +sub+v3+/comp?(informal)

Ex:

I have gone to Kabul

I have not gone to Kabul.

Have I gone to Kabul?

Have I not gone to Kabul?

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Haven't I gone to Kabul?

Usages:

Usage1: it shows an action or activity which happened at unspecific time in the past.

Ex: Shabeer has gone to Paris. Ex: I have eaten food. Ex: She has come here.

Note: when present perfect tense is used in this way it is usually followed by indefinite adverbs of time like: already, recently, yet, so far, several times, before, lately etc.

Ex: I have not gone to Kabul yet. Ex: Hamad has called me several times.

Usage2: present perfect tense is used with since and for to show an action which started in the past, continued up to present time and may or may not go the future.

Since: shows starting point of an action.

Ex: I have taught English since 2015. I have lived in Nangarhar since 2001.

For: for shows the duration of an action.

Ex: I have taught English for nine years.

Usage 3: present perfect tense is used to show an action which has been completed in the past but the marks of the action seen in the present.

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Ex: Someone has broken the door. Ex: My brother has fixed my mobile.

Usage 4: present perfect tense is used with just to show an immediate past action.

Ex: We have just finished the lesson. Ex: I have just come here.

Usage 5: it is used to show the repetition of an action in the past.

Note: In this case we use (once, twice, three times, many times, a couple of times)

Ex: I have gone to London twice. Ex: Ahmad has eaten lunch a couple of times.

The second and third form of some essential verbs are:

First form	2 nd form	3 rd form
Go	Went	Gone
Do	Did	Done
Drive	Drove	Driven
Know	Knew	Known
Drink	Drank	Drunk
Feel	Felt	Felt
Fly	Flew	Flown
Find	Found	Found
Get	Got	Gotten
Give	Gave	Given
Have /has	had	Had

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Forgive	Forgave	Forgiven
Cut	Cut	Cut
Hurt	Hurt	Hurt
Hit	Hit	Hit
Steal	Stole	Stolen
Make	Made	Made
Mistake	Mistook	Mistaken
Keep	Kept	Kept
Read	Red /read	Red /read
Sell	Sold	Sold
Put	Put	Put
Speak	Spoke	Spoken
Swim	Swam	Swum
Think	Thought	Thought
Teach	Taught	Taught
Throw	Threw	Thrown
Win	Won	Won
Write	Wrote	Written
Arise	Arose	Arisen
Bind	bound	Bound
Come	Came	Come
Deal	Dealt	Dealt
Draw	Drew	Drawn
Send	Sent	Sent
Run	Ran	Run
Learn	Learnt /learned	Learnt /learned
Shake	Shook	Shaken
Meet	met	Met
Show	Showed	Showed
Wear	Wore	Worn
Sink	Sank	Sunk

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4: Present perfect continuous tense

Structure

A/F: sub+ have /has +been +v ing +comp.

N/F: sub +have /has+not +been +v ing +comp.

Q/F : have /has +sub+been +v ing +comp?

N/I/F : have /has +sub+not+been +v ing+comp? (formal)

N/I/F: haven't / hasn't +sub+been+v ing +comp? (informal)

Ex:

I have been going to Mazar.

I have not been going to Mazar.

Have I been going to Mazar?

Have I not been going to Mazar?

Haven't I been going to Mazar?

Usages:

Usage1: is used to show the duration of an action which started in the past continued to present and may or may not go to the future.

Ex:

Ali has been searching for a house since morning.

I have been studying English for one year.

They have been cutting the trees for four days.

Jamila has been washing the dishes since 2:00 o'clock.

I have been living in Nangarhar since 2000.

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5: Simple past tense

Structure

A/F: sub+ verb 2nd +comp.

N/F: sub+did+not+verb 1st +comp.

Q/F: did +sub+verb 1st +comp?

N/I/F: did+sub+not+verb 1st +comp? (formal)

N/I/F: didn't +sub+verb 1st +comp? (informal)

Ex:

I went to school yesterday

I did not go to school yesterday.

Did I go to school yesterday?

Did I not go to school yesterday?

Didn't I go to school yesterday?

Usages:

Usage1: it shows an action which happened at some particular time in the past.

Note: when simple past tense used in this way it is usually followed by adverbs of time. like, yesterday, last week, last month, last year, two days ago etc.

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Ex: I went to Sherzai park yesterday. Ex: I called Ahmad yesterday.

Usage2: Simple past tense is used to ask about past action.

Ex:

When did you come here?

What did you do yesterday?

Whom did you meet?

Usage3: Simple past tense can be used with (always) to show past habit.

Ex:

She always teased me. Ex: She always beautified herself to her husband.

6: Past continuous tense

Structure

A/F: Sub+was/were+v ing +comp.

N/F: sub+was/were+not+v ing+comp.

Q/F: was/were +sub+v ing+comp?

N/I/F: was/were+sub+not+v ing+comp? (formal)

N/I/F: wasn't /weren't +sub+v ing+comp? (informal)

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Ex:

Ahmad was coming here yesterday.

Ahmad was not coming here yesterday.

Was Ahmad coming here yesterday?

Was Ahmad not coming here yesterday?

Wasn't Ahmad coming here yesterday?

Usages:

Usage1: is used to show the duration of an action or activity which was in progress at some particular time in the past.

Note: When past continuous tense used in this way it is usually followed by adverbs of time like, yesterday, last week , three hours ago

Ex:

Arzo was using facebook three hours ago.

I was going to Kabul three days ago..

Usage2: it is used with (always) to show a past habit.

Ex: I was always waiting for you. Ex : Our uncle was always helping to the poor people.

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7: Past perfect tense

Structure:

A/F: sub+had+v3+/comp

N/F: sub+had+not+v3+/comp

Q/F: had +sub+v3+/comp?

N/I/F: had+sub+not+v3+/comp? (formal)

N/I/F: hadn't +sub+v3+/comp? (informal)

Ex: He had seen Kabul.

He had not seen Kabul.

Had he seen Kabul?

Had he not seen Kabul?

Hadn't he seen Kabul?

Ex: She had invited me.

She had not invited me.

had she invited me?

had she not invited me?

hadn't she invited me?

Usages:

Usage1: it shows an action or activity that happened before another action in the past.

Note:

We use (when/before /by the time/ after/) in this tense.

Ex: you had beat me before I told you the fact.

When you called me, I had eaten lunch.

I had won the match ,when she called us.

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8: Past perfect continuous tense

Structure:

A/F: sub+had+been+v.ing +/comp

N/F: sub+had+not+been+v.ing+/comp.

Q/F: had +sub+been+v.ing+/comp?

N/I/F: had+sub+not+been+v.ing+/comp? (formal)

N/I/F: (hadn't)+sub+been+v.ing+/comp? (informal)

Ex:

I had been playing cricket for three hours.

I had not been playing cricket for three hours.

Had I been playing cricket for three hours?

Had I not been playing cricket for three hours?

Hadn't I been playing cricket for three hours?

Usages:

Usage1: it shows the duration of an action which was in progress before another action in the past.

Ex:

The polices had been looking for the criminal for two years before they caught him.

I had been teaching English before I learned Arabic.

The teacher had been taking exam before I called him.

When I went to Ali's house yesterday, he had been sleeping.

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9: Simple future tense

Structure:

A/F : sub+will+verb+comp.

N/F: sub+will+not+verb+comp

Q/F: will +sub+verb+comp?

N/I/F : will+sub+not+verb+comp?(formal)

N/I/F: won't +sub+verb+comp? (informal)

EX:

I will go to school tomorrow.

I will not go to school tomorrow.

Will I go to school tomorrow?

Will I not go to school tomorrow?

Won't I go to school tomorrow?

2nd structure:

A/F :sub+ is,am,are +going to +verb+ comp

N/F: sub+ is,am,are +not +going to +verb+ comp

Q/F: is,am,are +sub+going to +verb+comp?

N/I/F: is,am,are +sub+not+ging to+verb+comp?(formal)

N/I/F : is,am,are +not +sub+going to +verb+comp? (informal)

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Note:

The second formula shows the strongest future action, it means (going to) is stronger than (will).

Ex: we are going to invite you next week.

We are not going to invite you next week.

Are we going to invite you next week?

Are we not going to invite you next week?

Aren't we going to invite you next week?

3rd structure (state)

A/F: sub +will +be +/comp

N/F: sub+will+not+be +comp

Q/F: will +sub+be +comp?

N/I/F: will +sub+not+be+ comp ?(formal)

N/I/F: won't +sub+ be+ comp? (informal)

Ex:

I will be in the class tomorrow.

Will I be in the class tomorrow?

I will not be in the class tomorrow.

Will I not be in the class tomorrow?

Won't I be in the class tomorrow?

Usages:

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Usage1: It shows an action or activity which will happen at some specific time in the future.

Ex: I will call you tomorrow. Ex: I will speak English in next time.

Ex: I am going to go to play cricket tomorrow.

Usage 2: simple future tense can be used in conditional sentences.

Ex: if we study hard we will get good marks.

Whether she tells me I will help her.

10 : Future continuous tense

Structure:

A/F: sub+will+be+v .ing +/comp

N/F:sub+will+not+be+v ing+/comp

Q/F:will +sub+be +v ing+ /comp?

N/I/F:will+ sub+not+be +v ing +/comp?(formal)

N/I/F:won't+sub+be+v ing +/comp? (informal)

Ex:

I will be studying English at 6:00 o'clock tomorrow.

I will not be studying English at 6:00 o'clock tomorrow.

Will I be studying English at 6:00 o'clock tomorrow?

Will I not be studying English at 6:00 o'clock tomorrow?

Won't I be studying English at 6:00 o'clock tomorrow?

2nd structure :

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A/F: Sub+to be+going to +be+ v ing +comp.

N/F: sub+to be +not+going to +be+ v ing +comp.

Q/F: to be +sub+going to +be+ v ing +comp.?

N/I/F: to be +sub+not+going to +be + v ing comp ?(formal)

N/I/F: to be +not +sub+going to +be + v ing +comp ?(informal)

Ex:

I am going to be making pizza after 3 hours.

Am I going to be making pizza after 3 hours?

I am not going to be making pizza after 3 hours.

Am I not going to be making pizza after 3 hours?

Am not I going to be making pizza after 3 hours?

Usages:

Usage 1: it is used to show the duration of an action which will be in progress at some specific time in the future.

Note:

When this tense is used in this way it is usually followed by adverbs of time like: next time, next hour, next day, next month, next year.

Ex:

I will be watching the contest of Afghanistan vs Pakistan tomorrow.

11: Future perfect tense

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Structure:

A/F: sub+will+have+3rd verb+comp.

N/F: sub+will+not+have+3rd verb+comp.

Q/F: will +sub+have+3rd verb/comp?

N/I/F: will+sub+not+have+3rd verb+comp?

N/I/F: won't +sub+have+3rd verb+comp?

Ex:

I will have completed my work.

I will not have completed my work.

Will I have completed my work?

Will I not have completed my work?

Won't I have completed my work?

Usages:

Usage1: future perfect tense is used to show an action which will be completed

Before another action in the future.

Ex:

When you come here, I will have cleaned the guest house.

I will have written my English assignment when he gets out.

The children will have eaten lunch, before their parents arrive.

Usage2: it shows two actions that will happen in the future but one action will happen earlier and the other action will happen later.

Note:

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First or earlier action is indicated by future perfect tense and the second or later action is indicated by simple present tense.

Ex: I will have done my homework, before you come home.

12: Future perfect continuous tense

Structure:

A/F: sub+will+have+been+v ing+comp.

N/F: sub+will+not+have+been+v ing+comp.

Q/F: will+sub+have+been+v ing+comp ?

N/I/F: will+sub+not+have+been+v ing+ comp ? (foramal)

N/I/F: won't+sub+have+been+v ing+ comp ?(informal)

Ex:

The students will have been learning their lessons before they take the exam.

The students will not have been learning their lessons before they take the exam.

Will the students have been learning their lessons before they take the exam?

Will the students not have been learning their lessons before they take the exam?

Won't the students have been learning their lessons before they take the exam?

Usages:

Usage1: it is used to show the duration of an action which will be in progress before another action in the future.

Ex: When Hewad mal comes back from pilgrimage we will have been getting ready to him.

Ex: Before we get marry, we will have been shopping for ourselves.

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