

TENSES

TENSES : MEANING

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 :

The Present Tense

The Past Tense

The Future Tense.

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

Indefinite

Continuous or Imperfect

Perfect

3.

Perfect

4. Continuous

Table Of English Tenses

Tense	Indefinite	Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
Present	Play (s)	Is / Am / Are Playing	Has / Have Played	Has / Have been Playing
Past	Played	Was / Were Playing	Had Played	Had been Playing
Future	Will / Shall Play	Will / Shall be Playing	Will / Shall Have Played	Will / Shall have been Playing

	Playing	Have	been Playing
		Played	
Played	Was / Were	Had	Had been
	Playing	Played	Playing
Will / Shall	Will / Shall	Will / / Shall	Play be Playing
Shall have been			
		Have	Playing

- The **Indefinite Tense** does not indicate whether the action is complete or not.
- The **Continuous (Imperfect) Tense** that the action is still going on.
- The **Perfect Tense** indicates that the action is complete , finished or perfect.
- The **Perfect Continuous Tense** indicates that the action began in the past and is still continuing.

PRESENT TENSE

e Subject + Verbi + Object

- Expresses a general truth or an action that is occurring now
Eg : The sun rises from the east-
- Expresses an action that occurs regularly or habitually
Eg : She goes to the school regularly.

- ⦿ Affirmative Sentences : They play.
- ⦿ Negative Sentences : They do not play.
- ⦿ Interrogative Sentences : Do they play ?
- ⦿ Negative Interrogative Sentences : Do they not play ?

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE e
Subject + Is/Am/Are + VI + ing +
Object.

- 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.

Affirmative Sentences : You are playing.

@ Negative Sentences : You are not playing.

@ Interrogative Sentences : Are you playing ?

Negative Interrogative Sentences : Are you not
playing ?

PRESENT

TENSE

Subject + has/have + V3 + Object.

Has -> Singular , Have -> Plural.

The present perfect tense denotes an action that was started in the past and has just been completed.

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

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Subject + has/ have + been + VI + ing + Object

The present perfect tense is used when an action that started in the past is still continuing.

Affirmative Sentences : We have been playing.

Negative Sentences VVe have not been playing.

@ Interrogative Sentences : Have we been playing

Negative Interrogative Sentences : Have we not
been playing ?

PLEPAST TENSE

- ◉ Subject + V2 + Object.
- ◉ The simple past tense is used for an action which happened at a particular time in the past.

● Affirmative Sentences : I played.

❶ Negative Sentences : I did not play.

@ Interrogative Sentences : Did I play ?

❷ Negative Interrogative Sentences : Did I not played ?

CONTINUOUS TENSE

- ◉ Subject + was/were + VI + ing + Object.
- ◉ The past continuous tense is used for an action which was happening at a particular time in the past.
- ◉ Affirmative Sentences : Boys were playing.

PAST

◉ Negative Sentences Boys were not playing.

@ Interrogative Sentences : Were boys playing ?

◉ Negative Interrogative Sentences : Were boys not playing ?

PERFECT TENSE

◉ Subject + had + V3 + Object.

- 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. The simple past tense is used with the other action.

Affirmative Sentences : Sheila had played

Negative Sentences : Sheila had not played

PAST

Interrogative Sentences : Had Sheila played?

@ Negative Interrogative Sentences : Had Sheila
not played ?

PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Subject + had + been + VI + Object.

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.

● Affirmative Sentences : Ria had been playing.

@ Negative Sentences : Ria had not been playing.

@ Interrogative Sentences : Had Ria been playing?



PAST

- ◉ Negative Interrogative Sentences : Had Ria not been playing ?

SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE

- ◉ Subject + will/shall + V₁ + Object.
- ◉ The simple future tense is used for an action that will take place at particular time in the future.

● Affirmative Sentences : Ravi will play.

● Negative Sentences : Ravi will not play.

@ Interrogative Sentences : Will Ravi play ?

● Negative Interrogative Sentences : Will Ravi not play ?

FUTURE

- Subject + will/ shall + be + VI + ing + Object

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

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?

PERFECT TENSE

Subject + shall/will + have + V3 +
Object.

Future perfect tense is used to indicate the completion of an action by a certain period of time in the future.

Affirmative Sentences : She will have played.

Negative Sentences : She will not have played.

@ Interrogative Sentences : Will she have played?

Negative Interrogative Sentences : Won't she not have played?

FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

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

The future perfect tense is used when an action is to continue up to a certain point of time in the future.

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● Affirm-native Sentences : Raj will have been playing.

@ Negative Sentences : Raj will not have been playing.

● Interrogative Sentences : Y'Vill Raj have been playing ?

@ Negative Interrogative Sentences : VVill Raj not have been playing ?