



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Coimbatore-35



## TENSES

### What does the word 'Tense' mean ?

The word 'Tense' in English Grammar is used to denote the characteristics of the verb in a sentence. Tense is used to depict the particular time in which a specific event/action takes place. The main 3 types of Tenses are Past Tense, Present Tense and Future Tense.

### Three types of Tense:

#### 1) Past Tense

Past tense expresses an action or situation that was started and finished in the past. The structure of this past tense is **Subject + verb 2 + object.**

#### Examples:

- \* She **completed** all the assignments last night.
- \* I **saw** him yesterday.

#### 2) Present Tense

Present tense is used to express an unchanging, repeated, or habitual action or situation that exists at the time of speaking. It can also represent general facts and universal truth.

Structure is **Subject+verb (e/es) + object.**

#### Examples:

- \* Magnet **attracts** iron
- \* He **goes** to temple daily
- \* The Earth **revolves** around the Sun

#### 3) Future Tense

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

Structure is **Subject + shall/will+ verb+ object.**

Examples:

- \* I **will** help you
- \* We **shall** overcome the problem

**These 3 Tenses contains Four Sub divisions like:**

Continuous Tense, Perfect Tense and Perfect Continuous Tense.

### **1) Past Continuous Tense**

It describes a continuous and interrupted action in the past.

Structure is **Subject+ helping verb (was/were) + verb (ing) + object.**

Examples:

- \* She **was writing** when I called her.
- \* They **were eating** at the restaurant.

### **2) Past Perfect Tense**

It describes a completed action in the past. An action which was completed at a specific time in the past. Structure is **Subject + had + verb + past participle**

Examples:

- \* I **had finished** my homework
- \* My brother **had solved** five math problems before I completed two.

### **3) Past Perfect Continuous**

It denotes an action that had been going on for some time before another action took place in past. Structure is **Subject + had been + Verb (ing) + time of action**

Example

- \* I **had been playing** cricket since morning

### **4) Present Continuous**

It talks about the ongoing actions that are still not finished.

Structure is **Subject + helping verb (is / am/ are) + main verb (ing) + object.**

### Example

- \* **It is raining** again
- \* Birds **are flying** in the sky

### **5) Present Perfect**

It denotes the action just completed and a completed action which have current relevance.

Structure is **Subject + helping verb (have/has) + verb + past participle**

**Has** - I, You, They

**Have** - He, She, It

### Example

- \* I **have seen** that movie twice
- \* She **has taken** leave

### **6) Present Perfect Continuous**

It denotes an action that began in the past and has just recently ended.

Structure is **Subject + helping verb (have/has) + been + verb (ing)**

**Has been** - He,She,It

**Have been** - I, We, You, They

### Example:

- \* She **has been writing** for 2 hours
- \* I **have been saving** money for many years

### **7) Future Continuous**

It express a continuity of action at a particular time in the future. Structure is

**Subject + shall/will be + verb (ing)**

### Example:

- \* Tom **will be coming** to visit us next week
- \* I **will be leaving** for England tomorrow

### **8) Future perfect**

It denotes an action that will be completed before a particular time in future. Structure is

## Subject + shall/will + have + verb (3rd form) + past participle

### Example:

\* By this time next month, I **will have finished** my examination

## 9) Future perfect continuous

It is used to express duration of time that occurred before a specific point of time in future.

Structure is **Subject + shall/will + have been + verb (ing)**

### Example

\* By the time we finish the race, we **will have been running** for two hours.

## Exercise

\* **Fill in the blanks with an appropriate tense form.**

1. When I opened my eyes, I.....a strange sight. **a) saw** b)was seeing
2. Every morning she ..... up early and gets ready for work. a) is waking b) **wakes**
3. If I knew what he wanted, I.....this. a) will not permit **b) would not permit**
4. I ..... anything from her in a long time. **a) haven't heard** b) didn't hear
5. The headmaster ..... to talk to you. a) want **b) wants**
6. Jane ..... with her parents. a) is living **b) lives**
7. We ..... Greece next month. **a) are visiting** b) visit
8. The moon ..... around the earth. a) is revolving **b) revolves**
9. She ..... a novel. a) wrote **b) has written**
10. All students ..... in their work. a) handed **b) have handed**
11. Abdul \_\_\_\_\_ to be a doctor. **a) wants** b) wanting
12. The Soup \_\_\_\_\_ good. a) is tasting **b) tastes**
13. We \_\_\_\_\_(wait) for the bus for nearly half an hour, but it \_\_\_\_\_ (not arrive) yet so I don't think we \_\_\_\_\_ (be able to) attend the meeting on time. **have been waiting, hasn't arrived, will be able to. (have been waiting, hasn't arrived)**
14. Tomorrow at around 7.30 pm, I \_\_\_\_\_ through America. **a) Will be driving** b) drive

15. While the children \_\_\_\_\_ (play) by the lake, one of them \_\_\_\_\_(drop) his ball and \_\_\_\_\_(try) to get it out himself. (**Were playing, dropped, tried** )

**\* Identify the Tense in the following.**

1. I saw him there yesterday.
2. I was studying last night.
3. She had already left.
4. It had been raining.
5. Julie lives in New York.
6. She is working on a new project.
7. It has started raining again.
8. I have been working since morning.
9. I hope you will come to my party.
10. I will be arriving at the station by 5:00 P.M.
11. They will have already left.
12. By the time we finish the race, we will have been running for two hours.
13. I was waiting for the cab when I met Raj.
14. I am cooking pasta for lunch.
15. I will be working next Tuesday.

**Answer**

1. (Simple past tense)
2. (Past Continuous)
3. (Past perfect)
4. (Past perfect continuous)
5. (Simple Present Tense)
6. (Present continuous tense)
7. (Present perfect tense)
8. (Present perfect continuous)
9. (Simple Future tense)

10. (Future Continuous)

11. (Future perfect)

12. (Future perfect continuous)

13. (Past Continuous)

14. (Present Continuous)

15. (Future Continuous)

**\* Change the following sentences as directed.**

1. I will talk to him. (Change into simple past)

I talked to him.

2. She works as a receptionist. (Change into past continuous)

She was working as a receptionist

3. They spend hours talking. (Change into simple future)

They will spend hours talking.

4. Rita drives the black car for five years. (Change into past perfect continuous)

Rita had been driving the black car for five years

5. I have been running for hours. (Change into past perfect tense)

I had run for hours.

6. She works hard to support her family. (Change into present perfect.)

She has worked hard to support her family.

7. I waited for an hour. (Change into present perfect)

I have waited for an hour.

8. She lives alone. (Change into present perfect continuous tense)

She has been living alone.

9. The girl sings beautifully. (Present Continuous Tense)

The girl is singing beautifully.

10. I am leaving for England tomorrow. (Future Continuous)

I will be leaving for England tomorrow