

# Tenses In English

## Lecture 4

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## INTRODUCTION

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.

Based on time frame the verb tenses categorized as:

- Present Tense
- Past Tense
- Future Tense

**Present Tense:** Expresses an unchanging, repeated, or reoccurring action or situation that exists only now. It can also represent a widespread truth.

**Past Tense:** Expresses an action or situation that was started and finished in the past.

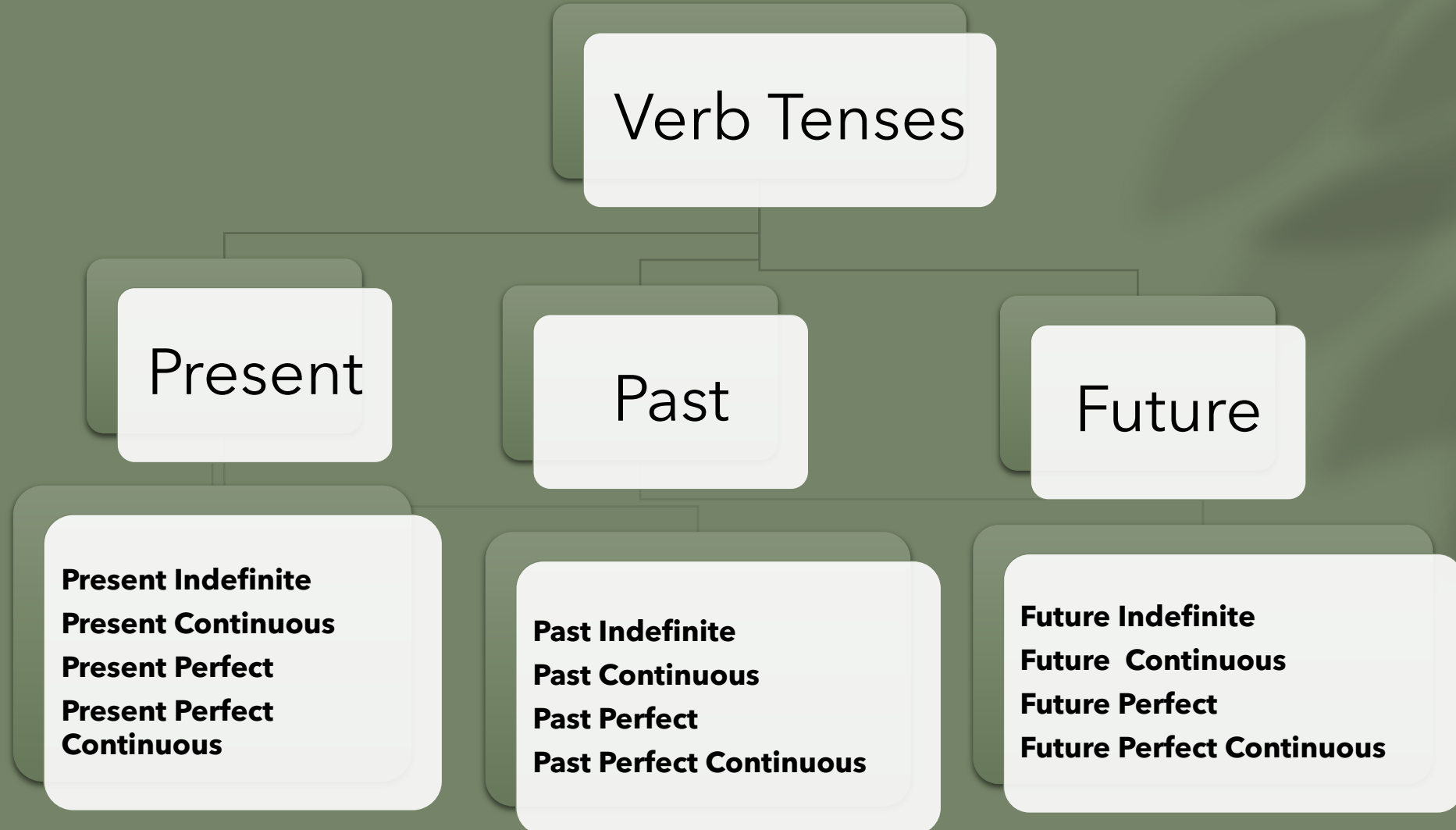
**Future Tense:** Expresses an action or situation that will occur in the future.

### Based on Aspect

Verb tenses may also be categorized according to aspect. Aspect refers to the nature of the action that described by the verb. There are four aspects:

- Indefinite or Simple
- Continuous or Progressive
- Perfect or Complete
- Perfect Continuous

# There Are Twelve Possible Verb Tenses



<b>Tenses</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Examples</b>
Present Simple	General Facts, Regular Actions and Schedules.	I work on Monday. I don't eat lunch at 2 o'clock.
Present Continuous	Continuing physical actions (now) , trends and one-time actions.	I'm working this Saturday. The world is getting warmer.
Present perfect	General life experience or lack thereof (means not having life experience.	We have been to Canada. He has never been to Spain.
Present Perfect Continuous	Actions that started in the past and continue (something you did it in the past but not at specific point in time . (for, since and ago)	I've been studying English for 2 years.
Past Simple	Actions started and finished in the past.	I worked all night. They did not come to the office.
Past Continuous	Actions that were continuing in the past. (used with specific point in time). Usually used in response to questions.	We were listening to Music at 8 p.m.
Past perfect	Actions completed/nor completed at non-specific point in the past . (used more in writing to show one action happened before another.	The plane had left by the time I got to the airport. I had taken my lunch before I went to the class.
Past Perfect Continuous	Actions started in the past and continued to non- specific point in the past.	They had been waiting since 3 p.m.

Tenses	Definition	Examples
Future Simple	Actions planned/unplanned for the future (will, won't, going to not going to )	I'll have a cup of tee. He is not going to cook dinner.
Future Continuous	Actions you think will/won't be continuing in the future.	Michael will be running a marathon this Saturday. I'm not going to be working at company A.
Future perfect	Actions you think will/won't have began at some point in in the future.	I will have lived in China for 2 years.
Future Perfect Continuous	Actions you think will/won't have started and will be continuing .	I won't have been eating meet for 3 months.

## □ To Sum Up

### ➤ Indefinite Tense

The three indefinite tenses, or simple tenses, describe an action but do not state whether the action is finished.

### ➤ Continuous Tense

The three continuous tenses, incomplete tenses, or progressive tenses, describe an unfinished action.

### ➤ Perfect Tense

The three complete tenses, or perfect tenses, describe a finished action.

### ➤ Perfect Continuous Tense

To combine the complete tenses and the incomplete tenses, to describe an action which was in progress and then finished

Here is a list of rules of these tenses:

	<b>Simple Forms</b>	<b>Progressive Forms</b>	<b>Perfect Forms</b>	<b>Perfect Progressive Forms</b>
<b>Present</b>	<b>Ist form + s / es</b>	<b>am/is/are + Ist form + ing</b>	<b>have/has + IIIrd form</b>	<b>have/has been + Ist form + ing</b>
<b>Past</b>	<b>IIInd form</b>	<b>was/were + Ist form + ing</b>	<b>had + IIIrd form</b>	<b>had been + Ist form + ing</b>
<b>Future</b>	<b>will/shall + Ist form</b>	<b>will be + Ist form + ing</b>	<b>will have + IIIrd form</b>	<b>will have been + Ist form + ing</b>

# Present Tense

## ➤ Present Indefinite Tense

The simple present is used to describe an action, an event, or condition that is occurring in the present, at the moment of speaking or writing.

For Example:

I play.

He / She plays.

## ➤ Present Perfect Tense

The present perfect tense is used to describe action that began in the past and continues into the present or has just been completed.

For Example:

I have played.

He / She has played.

## ➤ Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous emphasizes the continuing nature of an act, event, or condition.

For Example:

I am playing.

He / She is playing.

They are playing.

## ➤ Present Perfect continuous Tense

The present perfect continuous is used to describe an action, event, or condition that has begun in the past and continues into the present. For Example:

I / You have been playing.

He / She has been playing.



# Past Tense

## ➤ Past Indefinite Tense

The simple past is used to describe an action, an event, or condition that occurred in the past.

For Example:

I played.

He / She played.

## ➤ Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense is used to refer to actions that took place and were completed in the past.

For Example:

I had played.

He / She had played.

## ➤ Past Continuous Tense

The past continuous tense is used to describe actions ongoing in the past.

For Example:

I was playing.

He / She was playing.

You were playing.

## ➤ Past Perfect continuous Tense

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.

For Example:

I had been playing.

He / She had been playing.

# Future Tense

## ➤ Future Indefinite Tense

The simple future is used to refer to actions that will take place after the act of speaking or writing.

For Example:

I shall play.

He / She will play.

## ➤ Future Continuous Tense

The future continuous tense is used to describe actions ongoing in the future. The future progressive is used to refer to continuing action that will occur in the future.

For Example:

I shall be playing.

He / She will be playing.

## ➤ Future Perfect Tense

The future perfect is used to refer to an action that will be completed sometime in the future before another action takes place.

For Example:

I shall have played.

He / She will have played.

## ➤ Future Perfect continuous Tense

The future perfect continuous tense is used to indicate a continuing action that will be completed at some specified time in the future.

For Example:

I shall have been playing.

He / She will have been playing.

# Quiz

Fill in the correct form of the verb – All tenses

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ in Chicago for 20 years.

(be).

2. I \_\_\_\_\_ a wonderful film in the cinema

last night. (see)

3. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ at 6:38 yesterday

morning (rise)

4. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ when the climber

reached Mount Everest. (shine)

5. I promise that I \_\_\_\_\_ this secret to

anyone (not tell)

6. Unfortunately, just as we got to the airport their plane

\_\_\_\_\_ off (take).

7. I \_\_\_\_\_ two mistakes in the last quiz.

(make)

8. I was tired yesterday because I \_\_\_\_\_

well the night before (not sleep).

9. Sh! Someone \_\_\_\_\_ to our

conversation (listen)!

10. When I left the house this morning t 7:30, it

\_\_\_\_\_ (already rain)

11. I think Bob \_\_\_\_\_ for London this very moment. (leave)

12. The plane \_\_\_\_\_ off in a few minutes. (take)

13. I \_\_\_\_\_ up at 7 every morning but this morning I \_\_\_\_\_ long and I

\_\_\_\_\_ up until 8. (get, sleep, not get)

14. I \_\_\_\_\_ my watch because it is being fixed (not wear).

15. This \_\_\_\_\_ an easy quiz so far (be).

16. They \_\_\_\_\_ in an apartment right now because they can't find a cheap house.

(live)

17. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ when the earthquake hit the small town. (sleep)

18. He \_\_\_\_\_ by herself since her divorce (live)

19. I was angry that I \_\_\_\_\_ such a stupid mistake (make).

20. He \_\_\_\_\_ his job a couple of years ago. (quit)