



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



## TENSES

Tenses are a grammatical concept that indicates the time when an action or state occurred. They help convey whether an event is happening in the past, present, or future.

Types of Tenses:

I) Present Tenses:

1) Simple Present: Used for actions that are habitual or generally true. Present Tenses:

Use: The simple present tense is used to describe actions that are habitual, facts, general truths, or routines.

Example: "She sings beautifully."

Example: "I live in New York."

2) Present Continuous: Used for actions happening right now.

Use: The present continuous tense is used to describe actions happening right now or around the present moment.

Example: "I am reading a book."

Example: "They are playing soccer."

3) Present Perfect: Used for actions that started in the past and have relevance to the present.

Use: The present perfect tense is used to describe actions that started in the past and have relevance to the present or to express experiences or accomplishments.

Example: "I have visited that museum before."

Example: "She has just finished her meal."

4) The present perfect continuous:

The present perfect continuous (also known as the present perfect progressive) is a verb tense used to talk about something that started in the past and is continuing at the present time.

Example: I have been reading War and Peace for a month now.

Past Tenses:

Simple Past: Used for actions that happened at a specific time in the past.

Use: The simple past tense is used to describe actions that occurred at a specific time in the past.

Example: "He studied abroad last year."

Example: "They watched a movie yesterday."

Past Continuous: Used for actions that were ongoing in the past.

Use: The past continuous tense is used to describe actions that were ongoing in the past or actions that were interrupted.

Example: "I was reading a book when the phone rang."

Example: "They were playing chess all evening."

Past Perfect: Used for actions that happened before another past event.

Use: The past perfect tense is used to describe actions that happened before another past event or to emphasize the completion of an action.

Example: "She had already left when I arrived."

Example: "I had never seen such a beautiful sunset before."

Future Tenses:

Simple Future: Used for actions that will happen in the future.

Use: The simple future tense is used to describe actions that will happen in the future.

Example: "I will call you tomorrow."

Example: "They will arrive at the airport in an hour."

Future Continuous: Used for actions that will be on-going in the future.

Use: The future continuous tense is used to describe actions that will be on-going in the future or to emphasize the duration of a future action.

Example: "This time tomorrow, I will be flying to New York."

Example: "They will be working on the project all day."

Future Perfect: Used for actions that will be completed before a future event.

Use: The future perfect tense is used to describe actions that will be completed before a specified future time or event.

Example: "By next year, I will have completed my degree."

Example: "She will have finished her book by the end of the month."

Examples:

Simple Present: "She works at the library."

Present Continuous: "I am studying for the exam."

Present Perfect: "They have already finished their homework."

Simple Past: "He visited Paris last summer."

Past Continuous: "We were watching a movie when it started raining."

Past Perfect: "She had already left when I arrived."

Simple Future: "I will call you tomorrow."

Future Continuous: "This time tomorrow, I will be flying to New York."

Future Perfect: "By next year, I will have completed my degree."

Common Errors:

Avoid unnecessary tense shifts in a single sentence or paragraph.

Ensure consistency in the use of tenses when telling a story or describing a sequence of events.

Exercises:

Change the tense

Go through the sentences and change their tenses as directed.

1. The boy speaks the truth. (Present Continuous Tense)
2. Mr Cooper has spoken about Dinosaurs. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)
3. The boat sailed yesterday. (Simple Present Tense)
4. Amy went to school yesterday. ( Future Continuous Tense)
5. The baby cried for hours. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)
6. Robert ate all the cookies. (Present Perfect Tense)
7. I have finished my assignment. (Past Perfect Tense)
8. Mr Bert had taught for five years. (Past Perfect Continuous Tense).
9. Dev saw the Prime Minister yesterday. (Future Continuous Tense)
10. Priya shall finish her stitching by then. (Future Perfect Tense)

**Answers**

1. The boy is speaking the truth.
2. Mr Cooper has been speaking about Dinosaurs.
3. The boat sails today.
4. Amy will be going to school tomorrow.
5. The baby has been crying for hours.
6. Robert has eaten all the cookies.
7. I had finished my assignment.
8. Mr Bert had been teaching for five years
9. Dev will be seeing the Prime Minister tomorrow.
10. Priya shall have finished her stitching by then.