

Tense of English Grammar

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Definition of Tense and its Types:

Tense is a fundamental concept in English grammar that indicates the time of an action or event in relation to the present moment. It helps us understand when something happened, is happening, or will happen.

There are three primary types of tenses in English:

- 1. Present Tense,**
- 2. Past Tense, and**
- 3. Future Tense.**

The difference between "time" and "tense" in English language is as follows:

Time:

- Time refers to the actual point in time when an action or event occurs. It is a fundamental concept that exists independently of language and grammar. Time can be in the past, present, or future.

Tense:

- Tense, is a grammatical concept used in language to indicate when an action or event takes place in relation to the present moment. Tense helps us understand the timing of actions within the framework of a sentence or a statement.

Present tense in English can be categorized into four main types:

Present Simple:

This tense is used to describe general facts, habits, and actions that are regular or routine.

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the present simple tense:

1. Affirmative Present Simple:

- Formula: Subject + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements
- Example: She plays the piano every evening.

2. Negative Present Simple:

- Formula: Subject + Do/Does + Not + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements

- Example: They do not (don't) like spicy food.

3. Interrogative (Question) Present Simple:

- Formula: Do/Does + Subject + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements?
- Example: Do you enjoy reading books?

4. Present Simple with Third-Person Singular:

- Formula: Subject + Verb + s/es (for third-person singular) + Complements
- Example: He works at the library.

5. Present Simple Negative with Third-Person Singular:

- Formula: Subject + Does + Not + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements
- Example: She does not (doesn't) speak French.

6. Present Simple Interrogative (Question) with Third-Person Singular:

- Formula: Does + Subject + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements?
- Example: Does he like soccer?

Present Continuous (Present Progressive):

This tense is used for actions that are happening right now or around the present moment.

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the present continuous tense:

1. Affirmative Present Continuous:

- Formula: Subject + Am/Is/Are + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements

- Example: She is reading a book right now.

2. Negative Present Continuous:

- Formula: Subject + Am/Is/Are + Not + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements

- Example: They are not (aren't) playing soccer at the moment.

3. Interrogative (Question) Present Continuous:

- Formula: Am/Is/Are + Subject + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements?

- Example: Is he watching TV?

Present Perfect:

This tense connects the past with the present and is used for actions that have relevance to the present.

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the present perfect tense:

1. Affirmative Present Perfect:

- Formula: Subject + Have/Has + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements

- Example: They have visited London several times.

2. Negative Present Perfect:

- Formula: Subject + Have/Has + Not + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements
- Example: She has not (hasn't) finished her homework yet.

3. Interrogative (Question) Present Perfect:

- Formula: Have/Has + Subject + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements?
- Example: Have you ever traveled to Asia?

Present Perfect Continuous (Present Perfect Progressive):

This tense is used to emphasize the duration of an action that started in the past and continues into the present.

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the present perfect continuous tense:

1. Affirmative Present Perfect Continuous:

- Formula: Subject + Have/Has + Been + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: She has been studying for hours.

2. Negative Present Perfect Continuous:

- Formula: Subject + Have/Has + Not + Been + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: They have not (haven't) been working on the project lately.

3. Interrogative (Question) Present Perfect Continuous:

- Formula: Have/Has + Subject + Been + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements?
- Example: Have you been practicing your guitar skills?

These four types of present tense allow English speakers to convey different nuances of actions or events happening in the present or with a connection to the present.

Past Simple:

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the past simple tense:

1. Affirmative Past Simple:

- Formula: Subject + Past Verb (regular or irregular form) + Complements
- Example: She visited the museum yesterday.

2. Negative Past Simple:

- Formula: Subject + Did + Not + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements
- Example: They did not (didn't) watch the movie last night.

3. Interrogative (Question) Past Simple:

- Formula: Did + Subject + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements?
- Example: Did you finish your homework on time?

Past Continuous

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the past continuous tense:

1. **Affirmative Past Continuous:**

- Formula: Subject + Was/Were + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: She was reading a book at that time.

2. **Negative Past Continuous:**

- Formula: Subject + Was/Were + Not + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: They were not (weren't) playing outside when it started raining.

3. **Interrogative (Question) Past Continuous:**

- Formula: Was/Were + Subject + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements?
- Example: Were you studying when I called you?

Past Perfect

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the past perfect tense:

1. **Affirmative Past Perfect:**

- Formula: Subject + Had + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements
- Example: She had visited the museum before it closed.

2. Negative Past Perfect:

- Formula: Subject + Had + Not + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements
- Example: They had not (hadn't) finished their dinner when the phone rang.

3. Interrogative (Question) Past Perfect:

- Formula: Had + Subject + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements?
- Example: Had you seen that movie before last night?

Past Perfect Continuous (Past Perfect Progressive):

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the past perfect continuous tense:

1. Affirmative Past Perfect Continuous:

- Formula: Subject + Had + Been + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: She had been working at the company for five years before she resigned.

2. Negative Past Perfect Continuous:

- Formula: Subject + Had + Not + Been + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: They had not (hadn't) been studying for long when the power went out.

3. Interrogative (Question) Past Perfect Continuous:

- Formula: Had + Subject + Been + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements?
- Example: Had he been waiting for you at the restaurant?

Here are the types of future tense in English:

1. Future Simple (Simple Future):

This tense is used to describe actions or events that will happen in the future.

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the future simple tense:

1. Affirmative Future Simple:

- Formula: Subject + "will" + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements
- Example: She will visit her grandmother tomorrow.

2. Negative Future Simple:

- Formula: Subject + "will not" (won't) + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements
- Example: They won't attend the meeting on Friday.

3. Interrogative (Question) Future Simple:

- Formula: "Will" + Subject + Base Verb (infinitive form) + Complements?
- Example: Will you join us for lunch?

2. Future Continuous (Future Progressive):

This tense is used to describe ongoing actions that will occur in the future.

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the future continuous tense:

1. Affirmative Future Continuous:

- Formula: Subject + "will be" + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: She will be studying for her exam at this time tomorrow.

2. Negative Future Continuous:

- Formula: Subject + "will not be" (won't be) + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: They won't be working late tonight.

3. Interrogative (Question) Future Continuous:

- Formula: "Will" + Subject + "be" + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements?
- Example: Will you be attending the conference next week?

3. Future Perfect:

This tense is used to show that one action in the future will be completed before another action in the future.

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the future perfect tense:

1. **Affirmative Future Perfect:**

- Formula: Subject + "will have" + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements
- Example: By this time next year, they will have completed their degrees.

2. **Negative Future Perfect:**

- Formula: Subject + "will not have" (won't have) + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements
- Example: She won't have finished the report by the deadline.

3. **Interrogative (Question) Future Perfect:**

- Formula: "Will" + Subject + "have" + Past Participle (Base Verb + -ed or irregular form) + Complements?
- Example: Will you have read the book by the end of the week?

4. **Future Perfect Continuous**

Here are the sentence structure formulas for all types of the future perfect continuous tense:

1. **Affirmative Future Perfect Continuous:**

- Formula: Subject + "will have been" + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: By the end of the year, she will have been working at the company for ten years.

2. **Negative Future Perfect Continuous:**

- Formula: Subject + "will not have been" (won't have been) + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements
- Example: They won't have been living here for a decade.

3. **Interrogative (Question) Future Perfect Continuous:**

- Formula: "Will" + Subject + "have been" + Present Participle (Base Verb + -ing) + Complements?
- Example: Will you have been studying for the exam for three hours by tonight?

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