



Understanding verb tenses is crucial for effective communication in any language. The tense chart provides a comprehensive overview of the different [tenses](#), helping learners grasp the nuances of time and action within a sentence. By examining the [structures](#) and examples of each tense, learners can appreciate the precise ways in which verbs express when an action occurs.

This insight enables them to communicate with accuracy and clarity, enhancing their overall language proficiency. The tense chart also reveals how various tenses interact with each other within a narrative or conversation, shedding light on the subtleties of expressing past, present, and future events.

Rather than viewing tenses as rigid categories, this exploration allows for a more dynamic understanding that considers context and intention. Through studying this chart, learners gain practical tools for effectively conveying actions to time, further empowering them to engage in meaningful communication across diverse contexts and settings.

12 Tenses Chart

Here is the chart of all verb tenses in English Grammar.

Tenses	Formula	Example
1. Present Simple	Subject + Verb(1) + s/es + Obj	Sara goes to the park by train.
2. Past Simple	Subject + Verb(1) + Obj	Sara went to the park by train.
3. Future Simple	Subject + will/shall + verb(1) + Obj	Sara will go to the park by train.
4. Present Continuous	Subject + is/am/are + Verb +ing + Obj	Sara is going to the park by train.
5. Past Continuous	Subject + was/were + Verb +ing + Obj	Sara was going to the park by train.
6. Future Continuous	Subject + will be/shall be + verb +ing + Obj	Sara will be going to the park by train.
7. Present Perfect	Subject + Has/have + Verb(3) + Obj	Sara has gone to the park by train.
8. Past Perfect	Subject + had + Verb(3) + Obj	Sara had gone to park by train.
9. Future Perfect	Subject + will have + Verb(3) + Obj	Sara will have gone the park by train
10. Present Perfect Continuous	Subject + Has/have + been + Verb +ing + Obj	Sara has been going to park by train.

11. Past Perfect Continuous	Subject + had + been + Verb + ing + Obj	Sara had been going to park by train.
12. Future Perfect Continuous	Subject + will have been + verb + ing + Obj	Sara will have been going to the park by train for three months.

What are the 12 types of tenses?

The English language has 12 main verb tenses. Each tense is used to express specific times and actions or states. These tenses are divided into three main categories: past, present, and future, and each category has four aspects: simple, continuous (also known as progressive), perfect, and perfect continuous. Here are the 12 types of tenses:

1. Present Simple
2. Present Continuous (Progressive)
3. Present Perfect
4. Present Perfect Continuous (Progressive)
5. Past Simple
6. Past Continuous (Progressive)
7. Past Perfect
8. Past Perfect Continuous (Progressive)
9. Future Simple
10. Future Continuous (Progressive)
11. Future Perfect
12. Future Perfect Continuous (Progressive)

1- Present Indefinite Tense

The [present tense](#) is used to express an action that is happening now.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: (Subject+verb+Object)

Examples:

1. She **reads** a book every night.
2. They **play** soccer on Saturdays.
3. The sun **rises** in the east.
4. He **speaks** four languages.
5. Cats **love** to sleep during the day.

Negative: Subject+Does not+verb+ Object

Examples:

1. She **does not** read a book every night.
2. They **do not** play soccer on Saturdays.
3. The sun **does not** rise in the west.
4. He **does not** speak four languages.

5. Cats **do not** love to swim.

Interrogative: Do+Subject+verb+ Object?

Examples:

1. **Does** she read a book every night?
2. **Do** they play soccer on Saturdays?
3. **Does** the sun rise in the east?
4. **Does** he speak four languages?
5. **Do** cats love to sleep during the day?

2- Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous tense is used to express an action that is happening now and will continue for some time.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: (Subject+is/am/are+verb+ing) + Object

Examples:

1. She **is** reading a book now.
2. They **are** playing soccer at the moment.
3. The sun **is** shining brightly.
4. He **is** learning Spanish.
5. The baby **is** sleeping.

Negative: Subject+Is/Am/Are not +verb+ing+ Object

Examples:

1. She **is not** reading a book now.
2. They **are not** playing soccer at the moment.
3. The sun **is not** shining brightly.
4. He **is not** learning Spanish.
5. The baby **is not** sleeping.

Interrogative: Is/Am/Are+Subject+verb+ing + Object?

Examples:

1. **Is** she reading a book now?
2. **Are** they playing soccer at the moment?
3. **Is** the sun shining brightly?
4. **Is** he learning Spanish?
5. **Is** the baby sleeping?

3- Present Perfect Tense

The [present perfect tense](#) is used to express an action that has already happened.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: (Subject+has/have+Object) + verb+ed

Examples:

1. She **has** finished her homework.
2. They **have** visited Paris.
3. He **has** written a novel.
4. I **have** lost my keys.
5. We **have** eaten dinner.

Negative: Subject+has/have not+Object+verb+ed

Examples:

1. She **has not** finished her homework.
2. They **have not** visited Paris.
3. He **has not** written a novel.
4. I **have not** lost my keys.
5. We **have not** eaten dinner.

Interrogative: Has/Have+Subject+object+verb+ed?

Examples:

1. **Has** she finished her homework?
2. **Have** they visited Paris?
3. **Has** he written a novel?
4. **Have** I lost my keys?
5. **Have** we eaten dinner?

4- Present Perfect Continuous Tense

The [present perfect continuous tense](#) is used to express an action that has already happened and will continue for some time.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: (Subject+has/have been+verb+ing) + Object

Examples:

1. She **has been** reading for two hours.
2. They **have been** playing since morning.
3. He **has been** working on the project for a week.

4. I **have been** learning Spanish for a year.
5. We **have been** waiting here for thirty minutes.

Negative: Subject+has/have not been+verb+ing + Object

Examples:

1. She **has not been** reading for two hours.
2. They **have not been** playing since morning.
3. He **has not been** working on the project for a week.
4. I **have not been** learning Spanish for a year.
5. We **have not been** waiting here for thirty minutes.

Interrogative: Has/Have+Subject+been verb+ing + Object?

Examples:

1. **Has** she been reading for two hours?
2. **Have** they been playing since morning?
3. **Has** he been working on the project for a week?
4. **Have** I been learning Spanish for a year?
5. **Have** we been waiting here for thirty minutes?

5- Past Indefinite Tense

The [simple past tense](#) is used to express an action that has happened in the past.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: (Subject+object+verb+ed)

Examples:

1. She **read** a book last night.
2. They **played** soccer yesterday.
3. The sun **set** at 6 PM yesterday.
4. He **spoke** to me last week.
5. The dog **barked** loudly.

Negative: Subject+Object+didn't/did not + verb+ed

Examples:

1. She **did not** read a book last night.
2. They **did not** play soccer yesterday.
3. The sun **did not** set at 8 PM.
4. He **did not** speak to me last week.
5. The dog **did not** bark loudly.

Interrogative: Did/Did+Subject+object+verb+ed?

Examples:

1. **Did** she read a book last night?
2. **Did** they play soccer yesterday?
3. **Did** the sun set at 6 PM yesterday?
4. **Did** he speak to me last week?
5. **Did** the dog bark loudly?

6- Past Continuous Tense

The [past continuous tense](#) is used to express an action that was in progress at some point of time.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: (Subject+was/were+verb+ing) + Object

Examples:

1. She **was** reading a book when I called.
2. They **were** playing soccer at 5 PM yesterday.
3. The sun **was** setting as we left.
4. He **was** speaking loudly in the meeting.
5. The children **were** playing in the park.

Negative: Subject+was/were not+verb+ing + Object

Examples:

1. She **was not** reading a book when I called.
2. They **were not** playing soccer at 5 PM yesterday.
3. The sun **was not** setting as we left.
4. He **was not** speaking loudly in the meeting.
5. The children **were not** playing in the park.

Interrogative: Was/Were+Subject+verb+ing+Object?

Examples:

1. **Was** she reading a book when you called?
2. **Were** they playing soccer at 5 PM yesterday?
3. **Was** the sun setting as you left?
4. **Was** he speaking loudly in the meeting?
5. **Were** the children playing in the park?

7- Past Perfect Tense

The [past perfect tense](#) is used to express an action that happened before some other event in the past.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: Subject+had+object+verb+ed)

Examples:

1. She **had** finished her homework before going to bed.
2. They **had** visited Paris before moving to London.
3. He **had** written a novel by the end of last year.
4. I **had** lost my keys before I found them in my bag.
5. We **had** eaten dinner before the guests arrived.

Negative: Subject+had not + Object + verb+ed)

Examples:

1. She **had not** finished her homework before going to bed.
2. They **had not** visited Paris before moving to London.
3. He **had not** written a novel by the end of last year.
4. I **had not** lost my keys before I found them in my bag.
5. We **had not** eaten dinner before the guests arrived.

Interrogative: Had+Subject+object+verb+ed?

Examples:

1. **Had** she finished her homework before going to bed?
2. **Had** they visited Paris before moving to London?
3. **Had** he written a novel by the end of last year?
4. **Had** I lost my keys before finding them?
5. **Had** we eaten dinner before the guests arrived?

8- Past Perfect Continuous Tense

The [past perfect continuous tense](#) is used to express an action that had been going on for some time before another action in the past took place.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: (Subject+had been+verb+ing)+Object

Examples:

1. She **had been** reading for two hours before I arrived.
2. They **had been** playing football all afternoon when it started to rain.
3. He **had been** working on the project for several months before it was completed.
4. I **had been** learning Spanish for two years before moving to Spain.
5. We **had been** waiting for the bus for an hour when it finally came.

Negative: Subject+had not+been+verb+ing + Object

Examples:

1. She **had not been** reading for two hours before I arrived.
2. They **had not been** playing football all afternoon when it started to rain.
3. He **had not been** working on the project for several months before it was completed.
4. I **had not been** learning Spanish for two years before moving to Spain.
5. We **had not been** waiting for the bus for an hour when it finally came.

Interrogative: Had+Subject+been+verb+ing?

Examples:

1. **Had** she been reading for two hours before you arrived?
2. **Had** they been playing football all afternoon when it started to rain?
3. **Had** he been working on the project for several months before it was completed?
4. **Had** I been learning Spanish for two years before moving to Spain?
5. **Had** you been waiting for the bus for an hour when it finally came?

9- Future Indefinite Tense

The [future indefinite tense](#) is used to express an action that will take place in the future.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: Subject+will/shall+verb+Object

Examples:

1. She **will** visit her grandparents next weekend.
2. They **will** start a new project soon.
3. He **will** buy a new car next month.
4. I **will** travel to Japan next year.
5. We **will** have dinner at 8 PM.

Negative: Subject+will not + Object + verb

Examples:

1. She **will not** visit her grandparents next weekend.
2. They **will not** start a new project soon.
3. He **will not** buy a new car next month.
4. I **will not** travel to Japan next year.
5. We **will not** have dinner at 8 PM.

Interrogative: Will/shall+Subject+verb?

Examples:

1. **Will** she visit her grandparents next weekend?
2. **Will** they start a new project soon?

3. **Will** he buy a new car next month?
4. **Will** I travel to Japan next year?
5. **Will** we have dinner at 8 PM?

10- Future Continuous Tense

The [future continuous tense](#) is used to express an action that will be taking place in the future.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: Subject+will/shall+be+verb+ing+Object

Examples:

1. She **will be** studying all night.
2. They **will be** playing basketball tomorrow afternoon.
3. He **will be** working on the project next week.
4. I **will be** traveling during the summer.
5. We **will be** having a meeting at this time tomorrow.

Negative: Subject+will not+be+verb+ing + Object

Examples:

1. She **will not be** studying all night.
2. They **will not be** playing basketball tomorrow afternoon.
3. He **will not be** working on the project next week.
4. I **will not be** traveling during the summer.
5. We **will not be** having a meeting at this time tomorrow.

Interrogative: Will/shall+Subject+be+verb+ing?

Examples:

1. **Will** she be studying all night?
2. **Will** they be playing basketball tomorrow afternoon?
3. **Will** he be working on the project next week?
4. **Will** I be traveling during the summer?
5. **Will** we be having a meeting at this time tomorrow?

11- Future Perfect tense

The [future perfect tense](#) is used to express an action that will have taken place in the future.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: Subject+will/shall+have+verb+Object

Examples:

1. She **will have** finished her assignment by tomorrow.
2. They **will have** built the house by next year.
3. He **will have** completed the course by next month.
4. I **will have** saved enough money by the end of the year.
5. We **will have** arrived at the destination by noon.

Negative: Subject+will not+have+verb+Object

Examples:

1. She **will not have** finished her assignment by tomorrow.
2. They **will not have** built the house by next year.
3. He **will not have** completed the course by next month.
4. I **will not have** saved enough money by the end of the year.
5. We **will not have** arrived at the destination by noon.

Interrogative: Will/shall+Subject+have+verb?

Examples:

1. **Will** she have finished her assignment by tomorrow?
2. **Will** they have built the house by next year?
3. **Will** he have completed the course by next month?
4. **Will** I have saved enough money by the end of the year?
5. **Will** we have arrived at the destination by noon?

12- Future Perfect Continuous Tense

The [future perfect continuous tense](#) is used to express an action that will have been taking place in the future for a period of time.

Formation and Examples:

Affirmative: Subject+will/shall+have+been+verb+ing)+Object

Examples:

1. She **will have been** studying for three hours by the time we arrive.
2. They **will have been** working on the project for six months by its completion.
3. He **will have been** running for an hour by the time he finishes.
4. I **will have been** learning Spanish for two years by the time I visit Spain.
5. We **will have been** waiting for thirty minutes by the time the show starts.

Negative: Subject+will not+have+been+verb+ing)+Object

Examples:

1. She **will not have been** studying for three hours by the time we arrive.
2. They **will not have been** working on the project for six months by its completion.
3. He **will not have been** running for an hour by the time he finishes.

4. I **will not have been** learning Spanish for two years by the time I visit Spain.
5. We **will not have been** waiting for thirty minutes by the time the show starts.

Interrogative: Will/shall+Subject+have+been+verb+ing?

Examples:

1. **Will** she **have been studying** for three hours by the time we arrive?
2. **Will** they **have been working** on the project for six months by its completion?
3. **Will** he **have been running** for an hour by the time he finishes?
4. **Will** I **have been learning** Spanish for two years by the time I visit Spain?
5. **Will** we **have been waiting** for thirty minutes by the time the show starts?