

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

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Module Name: Tenses

Module No: 16

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Notes

- Tense is a verb-based method in grammar used to refer to the time of a particular action or event. The tense of a particular sentence can be identified by the conjugation of the verb in the sentence.

In English language there are three main tenses:

- Past Tense: Is used to indicate that an event or action happened in the past or a state existed in the past.
- Present Tense: Is used to indicate that an action is taking place in the present or state a timeless fact or a state that exists present.
- Future Tense: Is used to indicate that an event or action would happen in the future or a state would come to existence in future.

Aspects of Tenses

- For each grammatical tense, there are subcategories called aspects. Aspect refers to the duration of an event within a particular tense. In other words, the aspect of a tense allows us to describe or understand how an event unfolds over time.

- English tenses have 4 aspects: simple , continuous , perfect and perfect continuous .

Function of each aspect

The simple aspect or indefinite aspect is the verb form used to express a fact. Unlike other aspects, the simple aspect does not make it clear whether the action is a complete action or a habitual action. The continuing aspect or progressive aspect is the aspect of a verb that expresses an ongoing action. The perfect aspect or complete aspect is the aspect of a verb that expresses a completed action. The perfect continuous aspect or perfect progressive aspect is the aspect of a verb that expresses the end of an ongoing action.

Contexts in which simple present aspect is used:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things happening in the present. <p>Example- He is a student .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Something that happens repeatedly. <p>Example – He helps his father.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A habit or routine <p>Example: He goes to school by bus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing something that is part of a given situation <p>Example: In winter it gets dark quite early.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving instructions or offering advice <p>Example: Take the medicine regularly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stating a fact. <p>Example: The sun rises in the east.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make future reference when an event is part of a fixed schedule. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For exclamations. <p>Example: Here comes the bus!.</p>

Example: This year New Years falls on a Saturday.	
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Contexts in which present continuous aspect is used

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To refer to something happening at the time of speaking. <p>Example: Please don't talk ,I am speaking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When referring to something that is temporary . <p>Example: She is looking for her spectacles.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When referring to something connected with the present. <p>Example: These days more and more people are learning a foreign language .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When referring to an action that is planned for near future. <p>Example: I am going to watch a movie today.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When referring to a persistent habit. <p>Example: Reena is always looking for an opportunity to avoid doing work.</p>	

• Contexts in which present perfect aspect is used

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To refer to activities completed in the immediate past <p>Example: He has just gone out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To describe past events that have an impact on the present. <p>Example :The recession has affected citizen's lives profoundly .</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To refer to past actions when no definite time is given. Example: We have read the book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To denote an action that began in the past but continues till today. Example: I have known her since the last year
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- Contexts in which present perfect continuous is used

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used to refer to something that began in the past but continues in present. Example: I have been reading Heart of Darkness since last week.

- Contexts in which simple past aspect is used:

<p>An action completed in the past. Example: He left for Delhi yesterday.</p>	<p>A past habit or a routine. Example: He went to school by bus but now he walks.</p>
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- Contexts in which past continuous aspect is used:

<p>To refer to something happening at the time of reference in the past. Example: We were eating our dinner when he came.</p>	<p>When we talk about something that was a persistent habit in the past . Example : He was always grumbling.</p>
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- Contexts in which past perfect aspect is used

<p>The past perfect tense is used to emphasise that one action ,event or condition ended before another past action , event or condition began. Example: The train had already left by the time I reached the station.</p>
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Contexts in which past perfect continuous aspect is used

This form is used to refer to something that began in the past and continued up to a point of reference in the past.

Example: I had been studying at the University when she came to see me.

- Contexts in which Simple Future is used

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

Example: They will meet at the bus stand in half an hour.

- Contexts in which Future Continuous is used

Used to refer to continuing actions that would occur in the future.

Example: I will be in Paris by this time the next year.

- Contexts in which Future Perfect Tense is used

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

Example: By next November, I will have achieved my target.

- Contexts in which Future perfect continuous tense is used

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

Example: They will have been studying French literature next year.

Conjugation of verbs

- Conjugation is the change that takes place in a verb to express tense, mood and person of a sentence. To conjugate a verb, you add suffixes to the base verb form. The suffixes added at the end would vary depending

on the tense, aspect and number of the sentence .However in case of simple present tense and infinitive form , the verb remains unconjugated.

- A regular verb is any verb whose conjugation follows the typical pattern, or one of the typical patterns, of the language to which it belongs. Verbs like to love, to dance, to walk and to cry follow the same pattern of conjugation. These are regular verbs as they follow the same pattern of conjugation.
- A verb whose conjugation follows a different pattern is called an irregular verb. Verbs like to be, to become and to begin are irregular verbs as they do not follow the same pattern of conjugation .These are irregular verbs as they do not follow the same pattern of conjugation.

CONJUGATION OF REGULAR VERBS

TENSES ASPECTS	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	play	played	will play
CONTINUOUS	playing	was playing	will be playing
PERFECT	have/has played	had played	will have played
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	have/has been playing	had been playing	will have been playing

CONJUGATION OF IRREGULAR VERBS

TENSES ASPECTS	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	begin/ begins	began	will begin
CONTINUOUS	is/ are/ am beginning	was/were beginning	will be beginning
PERFECT	has/have begun	had begun	will have begun
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	has/have been beginning	had been beginning	will have been beginning