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ENGLISH

Tenses

What are Tenses?

Tense is something which tells us **when** the action expressed by the verb **took place**. There are three main divisions of tenses.

- Past Tense: The **past tense** is used to talk about actions which took place in the past.

Manjula studied in this school.
Gretel was cleaning her house.
Raman had perfected the art of hospitality.
Harsh had been touring the country this time last year.

- Present Tense: The **present tense** is used to talk about actions which take place in the present.

Sarita lives with her parents.
Yamini is preparing dinner for her family.
I have finished my work.
The company has been functioning well.

- Future Tense: The **future tense** is used to talk about actions which will take place in the future.

Geeta will return the book.
I shall be travelling to Munich.
Rajat will have completed his chores in some time.
Beena will have been working with us for ten years.

Present Tense

The present tense can be divided into four categories:

1. Simple
2. Continuous
3. Perfect
4. Perfect continuous

Simple Present Tense

Examples of sentences in the **simple present tense**:

Habitual action	I <u>exercise</u> every day. Mala <u>visits</u> her mother on Tuesdays.
Ability	Manish <u>plays</u> the flute. Rishi <u>can drive</u> cars.
Events of the near future	We <u>leave</u> tonight. They <u>move</u> to their new apartment this week.
Facts	Mr Prasad <u>is</u> the CEO of this company. Man <u>is</u> a social animal.
Non-factual beliefs	The pen <u>is</u> mightier than the sword. I <u>trust</u> you more than I trust myself.

Present Continuous Tense

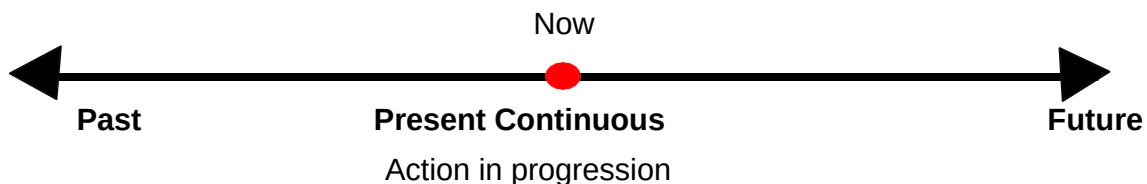
- The **present continuous tense** is used to express actions which are currently in progress.
- Progressive helping verbs (**is, am, are**) are used along with the „-ing‘ form of the verb.

Helping Verbs	Main Verb (-ing form)
is	working
are	packing

Examples of sentences in the present continuous tense:



Present continuous tense on a timeline:



Present Perfect Tense

- The **present perfect tense** is used to express an action which may have happened at a specific time before now.
- Perfect helping verbs (**has, have**) are used with the past participle form of the verb.

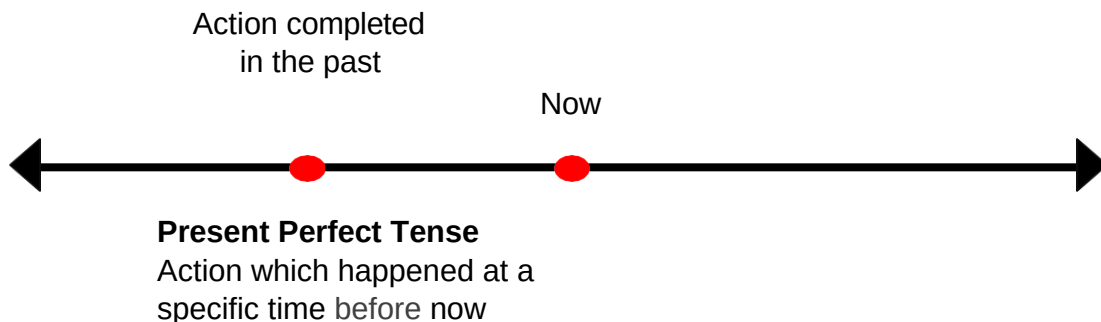
Helping Verbs	Main Verb (Past Participle)
has	frozen
have	moved

- The present perfect tense is never used when the time or date of the action is mentioned.
 - Frieda has visited us in 1999. *Incorrect*
 - Frieda visited us in 1999. *Correct*

Examples of sentences in the present perfect tense:

Recently completed action	Bob <u>has released</u> the birds from their cage. The train <u>has halted</u> at the station.
When the time of completion is unspecified	This <u>has happened</u> before. Jennifer <u>has met</u> you once.
A past action which is still in continuation	We <u>have believed</u> every word you said. Meera <u>has always</u> used the best cosmetics.
Changes which have happened over time	The despot <u>has led</u> the country to ruins. Pooja <u>has turned</u> into a high-flying socialite.
When the consequences are more important than the action itself	Manoj <u>has eaten</u> the last biscuit on the plate. The rebels <u>have ended</u> the rule of the autocratic king.
A past action whose benefits can be felt to this day	I have <u>learnt how</u> to speak in Mandarin. Ratna <u>has set up</u> an automatic burglar alarm.

Present perfect tense on a timeline:



Present Perfect Continuous Tense

- The **present perfect continuous tense** is used to express an action which may have happened in the past and has continued up to this very moment.
- It is formed out of the addition of perfect helping verbs (**has, have**) to the participle form of progressive helping verbs (**been**) and finally to the „-ing‘ form of the main verb.

Helping Verb (Perfect)	Helping Verb (Participle)	Main Verb (-ing)
has	been	speaking
have	been	playing

Examples of sentences in the present perfect tense:

Actions of the past which continue to the present moment

Lionel has been writing his assignment since 6 o'clock.

Meera has been waiting for you at the reception.

Points to remember

- The words „**for**‘ and „**since**‘ are used with the present perfect continuous tense to indicate the duration of the action.
- Use „for“ to talk about the duration of the action.
 - The Principal has been lecturing us **for one hour**.
 - It has been pouring **for four hours**.
- Use „since‘ to indicate when the action began.
 - Ram Singh has been working in this company **since 1980**.
 - Both the men have been toiling in the field **since morning**.

Present perfect continuous on a timeline:

