







# Introduction to Uses of Tenses

Primarily, There are three types of tenses:

1. [Past Tense](#)– Include verbs that indicate that the event has occurred in the past.
2. Present Tense- Include verbs that indicate an ongoing event or an event that is currently occurring in the present.
3. Future Tense- Include verbs that indicate an event that is likely to occur in the future.

There are 4 [aspects](#) of each type of tense giving us a total of 12 types of tenses in [English grammar](#). Did you know that English has just two ways of forming a tense from the main verb i.e the past and the present form? To form other tenses, we need the help of [auxiliary verbs](#) such as *have*, *be* or *will*.

**Verb Tenses: Tell us WHEN an action is taking place!**  
There are 3 main verb tenses:

Past	Present	Future
An action that already took place	An action that is happening right now	An action that is going to happen
		
Usually, you add <b>-ed</b> to the end of the verb <i>The cat jumped out of the box.</i>	We use the base form of the verb and add <b>-s</b> for singular nouns/pronouns <i>We walk. He walks.</i>	Add the word <b>will</b> in front of the base of the verb <i>They will talk later.</i>
But, some verbs are irregular. Instead of adding -ed, the whole word changes. <i>go → went    sell → sold</i>	<b>Present progressive:</b> For ongoing actions, we use the correct form of the verb "to be" and add <b>-ing</b> to the base of the verb. <i>We are walking.</i>	<i>Tomorrow, I will read a book.</i>
		

(Source: Pinterest)

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## Uses of Tenses

### Simple Tenses

These tenses, as the name goes, are the simplest forms of each [type of tense](#). They are used to indicate single actions in the past, present or future. Examples:

- Simple Past Tense- *I wore the dress yesterday*
- Simple Present Tense- *I wear the dress every day.*
- The Simple Future Tense- *I will wear the dress tomorrow.*

## Progressive or Continuous Tenses

Unlike simple tenses, progressive or continuous tenses are slightly more complex. They talk about events that are unfinished or ongoing as we speak. Examples:

- Past Progressive Tense- *She **was writing** her paper when I called out to her.*
- Present Progressive Tense- *I **am wearing** my favorite dress.*
- Future Progressive Tense- *She **will be going** to class when you call her.*

## Perfect Tenses

As the tenses get increasingly complex, next in line are [perfect tenses](#). Perfect Tenses are used to indicate one event has occurred before another. Often, [adverbs](#) such as *never*, *yet* and *already* are used to indicate the perfect [nature](#) of the used tenses. Examples:

- Past Perfect Tense- *After **she had moved** out, I found her old photo album.*
- Present Perfect Tense- *I **have driven** that road.*
- Future Perfect Tense- *I **will have completed** my exam at the same time tomorrow.*

## Perfect Progressive or Continuous Tenses

The perfect progressive tenses usually denote the ‘from when’ or ‘how long’ of an event or occurrence. They also always have the adverbs *since* or *for* in the sentence to indicate the continuous or progressive nature of the tense.

- Present Perfect progressive is used to indicate an activity or event that has begun in the past and is still continuing into the future or to show something that has happened lately.
- Past Perfect Progressive is used to indicate an event that has begun in the past and has continued to occur for some time in the past.
- Future Perfect Progressive is used to denote an ongoing action that will be completed sometime in the future.

Examples:

- Past Perfect Progressive Tense- *She **had been living** in that house until she died last month.*
- Present Perfect Progressive Tense- The cat **has been hiding** under the couch for over an hour now.
- Future Perfect Tense- *I **will have been playing** tennis for over 10 years by then.*