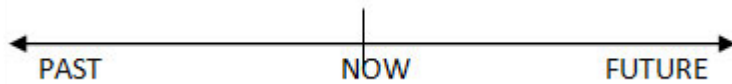


Tenses

Tenses play a crucial role in the English language. It denotes the time an action takes place, whether sometime in the past, in the present or will take some time in the future.



From a general view of tenses, this module will go on to discuss each tense in detail with examples and also [New way to learn Tense with Examples and Exercises](#). The table below gives a glimpse of the way tenses are used using the verb 'play'

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	Played (verb+ed)	Plays (verb+s)	will/shall play (will/shall+verb)
Perfect	had played (had+past participle)	has/have played (has/have+past participle)	will/shall have played (will/shall+participle)
Continuous	was/were playing (was/were+verb+ing)	is/am/are playing (is/am/are+verb+ing)	will/shall be playing (will/shall+be+verb+ing)
Perfect Continuous	had been playing (had been+verb+ing)	has/have been playing (has/have been+verb+ing)	will/shall have been playing (will/shall have been+verb+ing)

PAST TENSE

1) Simple Past Tense-

Indicates an action took place before the present moment and that has no real connection with the present time.

For example, "He danced in the function." (The action took place in the past, is finished and is completely unrelated to the present)

"He flew to London yesterday."

Note

a. **The verb** 'flew' is an irregular verb which does not take 'ed' in the past tense like regular verbs.

b. The form of **Simple Past Tense** is - verb + ed

2) Past Perfect Tense-

Indicates an action in the past that had been completed before another time or event in the past.

For example, "He had exercised before it started to rain."

"He had slept before I came back from the market."

Note

a. The form of **Past Perfect Tense** is- had + verb (past participle form or the 3rd form of the verb)

3) Past Continuous Tense-

Indicates an action going on at some time in the past or an action in the past that is longer in duration than another action in the past.

For example, "It was getting darker."

"The light went out while they were reading."

Note

a. The form of **Past Continuous Tense** is- was/were + verb + ing

4) Past Perfect Continuous Tense-

Indicates an action in the past that took place before another time or event in the past and continued during the second event/time point in the past.

For example, "At that time, he had been writing a novel for two months."

"He had been exercising when I called."

Note

a. The form of Past Perfect Continuous Tense is- had + been + verb + ing