

Beginner lessons for Tenses

Mastering Tenses: The Backbone of English Grammar

DEFINITION

Tenses indicate the time of an action or event in a sentence. They help us understand when something happens.

KEY CONCEPTS

Present Simple

Used for habitual actions or general truths, like 'I eat breakfast daily.'

Past Simple

Describes actions completed in the past, such as 'I visited my friend yesterday.'

Future Simple

Indicates actions that will happen, for example, 'I will go to the store tomorrow.'

Present Continuous

Shows actions currently happening, like 'I am studying right now.'

Past Continuous

Describes actions that were ongoing in the past, such as 'I was reading when you called.'

EXAMPLES

- She plays soccer every weekend.
- They were watching a movie last night.
- I will finish my homework later.

MEMORY TIPS

- ★ Think of 'present' as 'now', 'past' as 'then', and 'future' as 'later'.
- ★ Use the acronym PPF (Present, Past, Future) to remember the order.
- ★ Visualize a timeline with past on the left, present in the middle, and future on the right.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ Confusing present and past tenses, like saying 'I go to the store yesterday.'
- ✗ Using the wrong form of the verb, such as 'I am eat lunch.'
- ✗ Omitting auxiliary verbs in continuous tenses, like 'I was play soccer.'

QUICK RECAP

Tenses are essential for indicating when actions occur. Remember the key forms: present, past, and future, along with their continuous variations. Practice makes perfect!