



Tikrit University/ College of Education for women

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PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE

Present Simple Tense

The **present tense** (abbreviated **PRES** or **PRS**) is a grammatical tense whose principal function is to locate a situation or event in the present time.

The present tense is used for actions which are happening now. In order to explain and understand present tense, it is useful to imagine time as a line on which the past tense, the present and the future tense are positioned.

The term *present tense* is usually used in descriptions of specific languages to refer to a particular grammatical form or set of forms; these may have a variety of uses, not all of which will necessarily refer to present time.

For example, in the English sentence "My train leaves tomorrow morning", the verb form *leaves* is said to be in the present tense, even though in this particular context it refers to an event in future time.

Expressing tenses, aspects and moods

Besides the synthetic (inflected) forms described above, there are a number of periphrastic (multi-word) constructions with verb forms that serve to express tensed, aspectual or modal meanings.

These constructions are commonly described as representing certain verb tenses or aspects (in English language teaching they are often simply called tenses).

For the usage of these forms, see § Use of verb forms below. More detail can be found in the article Uses of English verb forms.

Progressive

The progressive (or continuous) aspect is expressed with a form of be together with the present participle of the verb.

Thus present progressive (present continuous) constructions take forms like am writing, is writing, are writing, while the past progressive (past continuous, also called imperfect) forms are was writing, were writing.

There is a progressive infinitive (to) be writing and a progressive subjunctive be writing. Other progressive forms, made with compound forms of be, are described below.

Perfect

The perfect aspect is expressed with a form of the auxiliary have together with the past participle of the verb.

Thus the present perfect is have written or has written, and the past perfect (pluperfect) is had written.

The perfect can combine with the progressive aspect (see above) to produce the present perfect progressive (continuous) have/has been writing and the past perfect progressive (continuous) had been writing

There is a perfect infinitive (to) have written and a perfect progressive infinitive (to) have been writing, and corresponding present participle/gerund forms having written and having been writing.

A perfect subjunctive (have written) is also sometimes used. Future and conditional perfect forms are given below.

Future and conditional

What is often called the future tense of English is formed using the auxiliary will.

The simple future is will write, the future progressive (continuous) is will be writing, the future perfect is will have written, and the future perfect progressive (continuous) is will have been writing.

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The simple future is will write, the future progressive (continuous) is will be writing, the future perfect is will have written, and the future perfect progressive (continuous) is will have been writing.

Traditionally (though now usually in formal English only) shall is used rather than will in the first person singular and plural.

The conditional, or "future-in-the-past", forms are made analogously to these future forms, using would (and should) in place of will (and shall).

Imperative

In the second person, the imperative mood is normally expressed with the base form of the verb but without a subject:

Take this outside! Be good! It is possible to add the second person pronoun you for emphasis: You be good! The first person plural is normally expressed with the contraction let's (let us) and the base form.

Questions, negation, inversion and emphasis

Questions are formed by subject–auxiliary inversion (unless the interrogative word is part of the subject). If there is otherwise no auxiliary, the verb do (does, did) is used as an auxiliary, enabling the inversion. This also applies to negation: the negating word not must follow an auxiliary, so do is used if there is no other auxiliary.

Inversion is also required in certain other types of sentences, mainly after negative adverbial phrases; here too do is used if there is no other auxiliary.

The construction with do as auxiliary is also used to enable emphasis to be added to a sentence.

In the English language we have 12 tenses

We have:

1. Simple present
2. Simple past
3. Simple future

4. Present perfect
5. Past perfect
6. Future perfect

7. Present progressive
8. Past progressive
9. Future progressive

10. Simple perfect progressive
11. Past perfect progressive
12. Future perfect progressive

By the word Tense:

tense tells you when the action happens. There are three main verb tenses: present, past, and future. Each main tense is divided into simple, progressive, perfect, and perfect progressive tenses.

Simple

Verb -s / without -s

finish/ finishes

Progressive

am/is/are + verb – ing

am/ is / are finishing

Perfect

have/has + verb -ed

Finished/ had finished

Perfect Progressive have/has been finishing had been finishing/ will have been finishing

Things to remember about tenses

- a. Present tense is the original verb form.
- b. Past tense has a few patterns.
- c. Future tense needs will (shall) + verb.

Examples:

- I run a marathon twice a year. (present)
- I ran a marathon last year. (past)
- I will run a marathon next year. (future)
- I eat lunch in my office.
- I ate lunch an hour ago.
- I will eat lunch in one hour.
- I see a movie once a week.
- I saw a movie yesterday.
- I will see a movie tomorrow.
- I know it.
- I knew it the day before yesterday.
- I will know it by tomorrow.
- I learn English.
- I learned English the last two years.
- I will learn English next year.
- I cook my supper every night.
- I cooked our dinner already.
- I will cook breakfast tomorrow.