



Tikrit University/ College of Education for women

English Department

English for special sciences

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Biology students/ Chemistry/ Psychology

First year students/ second/ third/ fourth

Book: Headway

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PAST TENSE

Tenses

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.

For past actions or states, the simple past is generally used: He went out an hour ago; Columbus knew the shape of the world.

However, for completed actions for which no past time frame is implied or expressed, the present perfect is normally used:

I have made the dinner (i.e. the dinner is now ready).

For an action in the course of taking place, or a temporary state existing, at the past time being referred to (compare uses of the present progressive above), the past progressive is used:

We were sitting on the beach

When...

For an action that was completed before the past time being referred to, the past perfect is used

We had sat down on the blanket

when...

For actions or events expected to take place in the future, the construction with will can be used: The president will arrive tomorrow. Future events are also often expressed using the be going to construction: She is going to arrive tomorrow.

Planned events can also be referred to using the present progressive (She is arriving tomorrow) or, if precisely scheduled, the simple present (She arrives tomorrow).

The future progressive and future perfect can be used analogously to the past equivalents: We will be sitting on the beach this afternoon; We will have left the house by 4 o'clock. However, in subordinate clauses expressing a condition or a time reference,

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The future progressive and future perfect can be used analogously to the past equivalents: We will be sitting on the beach this afternoon; We will have left the house by 4 o'clock. However, in subordinate clauses expressing a condition or a time reference, present forms are used rather than the forms with will: If/When you get (not will get) there...

When expressing actions or events lasting up to a specified time, the appropriate perfect construction is used (with the progressive if expressing a temporary state that would generally be expressed with a progressive form): We have been having some problems lately