



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

CLASS: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: April - 2026
WORKSHEET NO: 5	Topic: Tenses	Note: To be done in notebook

Tenses

Tenses express when an action occurs — past, present, or future. Mastering mixed tenses helps us communicate ideas clearly and accurately in speech and writing.



TENSE	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	I write.	I wrote.	I will write.
CONTINUOUS	I am writing.	I was writing.	I will be writing.
PERFECT	I have written.	I had written.	I will have written.
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	I have been writing.	I had been writing.	I will have been writing.

TENSE STRUCTURES AT A GLANCE

HOW TO BUILD A TENSE

SIMPLE Subject + Verb (v1/v2)	CONTINUOUS be (is/am/are/was/were) + Verb + -ing	PERFECT have / has / had + Past Participle	PERFECT CONTINUOUS have/has/had been + Verb + -ing
<i>She sings.</i> <i>He ran.</i>	<i>She is singing.</i> <i>He was running.</i>	<i>She has sung.</i> <i>He had run.</i>	<i>She has been singing for 1 hr.</i>

COMMON IRREGULAR VERBS — V1 / V2 / V3

BASE (V1)	PAST (V2)	PAST PARTICIPLE (V3)
write	wrote	written
go	went	gone
speak	spoke	spoken
see	saw	seen
take	took	taken

PRESENT TENSE

1. SIMPLE PRESENT

Structure: **Subject + verb (v1)**

Use: Habits, general truths, repeated actions. (e.g., **She reads every day.**)

2. PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Structure: **Subject + is/am/are + verb + -ing**

Use: Actions happening at this moment. (e.g., **He is running.**)

3. PRESENT PERFECT

Structure: **Subject + has/have + past participle (v3)**

Use: Recently completed actions still relevant now. (e.g., **I have finished my work.**)

4. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Structure: **Subject + has/have been + verb + -ing**

Use: Actions that started in the past and continue now. (e.g., **They have been waiting for an hour.**)



REMEMBER!

- Use SIMPLE PAST for finished actions: "She left at 5 PM."
- Use PRESENT PERFECT when the effect is still felt: "She has left." (she is still away)
- Signal words are your best clue — look for: yesterday, already, since, by the time, now...

PAST TENSE

1. SIMPLE PAST

Structure: **Subject + verb (v2)**

Use: Completed actions in the past. (e.g., **She visited Paris last summer.**)

2. PAST CONTINUOUS

Structure: **Subject + was/were + verb + -ing**

Use: Ongoing actions at a past moment. (e.g., **They were playing when it rained.**)

3. PAST PERFECT

Structure: **Subject + had + past participle (v3)**

Use: Action completed before another past action. (e.g., **She had left before I arrived.**)

4. PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Structure: **Subject + had been + verb + -ing**

Use: Ongoing action up to a certain past point. (e.g., **He had been studying for two hours before the exam.**)

(Describes an action/event that started sometime in the past and continued until a specific time in the past.)

FUTURE TENSE

1. SIMPLE FUTURE

Structure: **Subject + will + verb (v1)**

Use: Actions that will happen in the future. (e.g., **I will call you later.**)

2. FUTURE CONTINUOUS

Structure: **Subject + will be + verb + -ing**

Use: Actions in progress at a specific future time. (e.g., **She will be travelling at noon tomorrow.**)

3. FUTURE PERFECT

Structure: **Subject + will have + past participle (v3)**

Use: Actions completed before a specific time in the future. (e.g., **By Monday, I will have submitted my report.**)

4. FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Structure: **Subject + will have been + verb + -ing**

Use: Duration of an action up to a future moment. (e.g., **By June, he will have been teaching for a decade.**)

SIGNAL WORDS — TENSE CLUES

PAST

yesterday, last week
ago, in 2020
before, when, after
already, just, never
(with past perfect)
for, since (+ past perf.)

PRESENT

always, usually, often
every day, sometimes
now, at the moment
currently, look! listen!
already, just, recently
for / since (still going)

FUTURE

tomorrow, next week
soon, in the future
by + future time
by the time (future)
at this time tomorrow
for + duration (fut. perf.)



COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

I am knowing the answer. →

She has went to school. →

By 6 PM, I will finish. →

As soon as he will come, we'll leave. →

I have seen him yesterday. →

I know the answer.

She has gone to school.

By 6 PM, I will have finished.

As soon as he comes, we'll leave.

I saw him yesterday.



EXERCISE 1
Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given in brackets.

Every summer, my family (1) _____ (visit) the same beach town. Last year was different though. We (2) _____ (decide) to try somewhere new. By the time we arrived, the sun (3) _____ (already / set), so we couldn't see the ocean. "I (4) _____ (not / come) all this way just to stare at darkness," my dad joked. While my mom (5) _____ (unpack) the bags, my brother and I ran to the shore. Tomorrow, we (6) _____ (explore) the old lighthouse that we (7) _____ (see) on the map before leaving home.



EXERCISE 2
Choose the Correct Option

Choose the correct option from the brackets to complete each sentence.

1. They (were playing / had been playing) _____ chess for an hour when the lights went out.
2. She (has just arrived / just arrived) _____ home and is resting now.
3. By this time next year, I (will complete / will have completed) _____ my degree.
4. He (works / is working) _____ on his science project at the moment.
5. The tourists (visited / had visited) _____ the museum before the storm hit.
6. We (will be flying / will have flown) _____ over the ocean at midnight tonight.



EXERCISE 3
Error Correction

Identify and correct the tense errors in the following sentences.

1. She have lived in London for three years before she moved to Dubai.
2. I am knowing the answer all along.
3. They had been waiting when the bus finally arrives.
4. By the time we reached the station, the train already left.
5. He will completed the report by Friday afternoon.
6. I was reading my book when my friend is knocking on the door.
7. She never visited Paris before she went there last month.
8. We will be finish decorating the hall by the time guests arrive.
9. The teacher explains the lesson when the principal entered the room.
10. By next January, he will be learning English for ten years.

