

### 3. Verb Tenses (1)

#### What Is a Verb?

When we write sentences or clauses, we need to include **a verb**. What is a *verb*?

Verbs are one of the most crucial parts of speech in the English language. They serve as the action or state in a sentence, indicating what is happening or the condition of the subject.

#### How Many Tenses Are There?

English traditionally has **12 verb tenses**, categorized into **three main time divisions** (past, present, future) and **four aspects** (simple, continuous, perfect, perfect continuous)

#### Time and Tense Definitions

- **Time:** Refers to the actual placement of an action or event in reality (**Shows when an action happens**) whether it occurred in the **past** (before now), is happening in the **present** (now), or will occur in the **future** (after now).
- **Tense:** Refers to the grammatical structures used in a language to express **time** (**when** an action happens) and the **aspect** of an action (**how** an action happens), such as whether it is **ongoing (still happening)**, **completed (finished)**, **habitual (happens regularly)**, or **is connected to another point in time**.

**Tense** is a way to show **time** in grammar. It doesn't just tell us *when* an action happens but also **how** it happens—whether it is finished, ongoing, or connected to another action.

In English, tense is divided into **four aspects**: aspect: (*The Nature of the Action*)

Aspect tells us more about the action—whether it's ongoing, completed, repeated, or connected to another time. There are **4 aspects** in English: **simple, continuous, perfect and perfect continuous**.

### Tenses

#### 1. Simple tense

##### Simple Present Tense:

**What is it?** The present tense is the most basic and commonly used tense in English. It describes actions or states that are happening now, happen regularly, or are always true.

##### Key Uses of the Present Tense

1. **General Truths:** Facts or things that are always true.
  1. Example: *The sun rises in the east.* General Truth: *Water boils at 100°C.*
2. **Customary Actions:** Habits or repeated actions.
  - Example: *The student has a test every Saturday. He goes to the gym every day.*
3. **Planned Future Events:** Scheduled or planned events (**often with timetables or schedules**): refer only to fixed schedules: trains, flights, classes. **“Not include personal plans”**.
  - Example: *The train leaves at 6 PM tomorrow. The movie starts at 8 PM tonight.*
4. **State Verbs:** Used with verbs that describe states (feelings, thoughts, possession, etc.) rather than actions.
  - Example: *She loves chocolate. They know the answer.*
5. **Narratives or storytelling:** When one action follows another.
  - Example: *First, I wake up, then I brush my teeth. First, I study, then I relax.*
6. **To describe permanent situations(long lasting):**
  - He works at a bank.

- They live in New York.

### How to Form the Present Tense

1. **For I, you, we, they:** Use the **base form** of the verb (stem).
  - Example: *I eat breakfast. They play soccer.*
2. **For she, he, it:** Add **-s** or **-es** to the base form.
  - Example: *She eats breakfast. He plays soccer.*

### Signal Words for Present Tense

These words often indicate the use of the present tense: ***Sometimes, always, often, never, seldom, every day, first...then...***

Example:

- *I **always** drink coffee in the morning.*
- *She **never** eats meat.*
- *I **often** go for a walk in the park.*
- *I brush my teeth **everyday**.*

## 2. Simple Past Tense:

- **What is it?** The simple past tense is used to talk about actions or events that happened and were completed in the past. It's often used with time expressions to show when the action occurred.

### Key Uses of the Simple Past Tense

1. **Completed Actions in the Past:** Actions that started and finished in the past.
  - Example: *She visited the family last month.*
2. **Past Habits:** Actions that happened regularly in the past but no longer happen.
  - Example: *He played soccer every weekend when he was young.*
3. **Stories or Narratives:** Used to describe events in stories or past experiences.
  - Example: *Once upon a time, there lived a king.*

### How to Form the Simple Past Tense

1. **Regular Verbs:** Add **-ed** to the base form of the verb.
  - Example: *To arrive → arrived, To work → worked.*
2. **Irregular Verbs:** These verbs change their form completely. There's no fixed rule, so they need to be memorized.
  - Example: *To go → went, To eat → ate, To see → saw.*

### Signal Words for Simple Past Tense

These words often indicate the use of the simple past tense:

- Last... (last week, last year)
- In... (in 2020, in January)
- Yesterday
- ...ago (two days ago, a week ago)
- Past... (in the past)

Examples:

- I saw her yesterday.
- They moved to London in 2015.
- He called me two hours ago.

### 3. Simple Future Tense:

- **What is it?** The simple future tense is used to talk about actions or events that will happen in the future. It's often used for predictions, decisions, intentions, or offers made at the moment of speaking.

#### Key Uses of the Simple Future Tense

1. **Future Facts or Predictions:** Statements about what will happen in the future.
  - Example: *It will rain tomorrow.*      *I think she will pass the exam.*
2. **Decisions or Intentions:** Decisions made at the moment of speaking. (**spontaneous decisions**)
  - Example: *I will call you later.*      *I think I will take the blue shirt.*
3. **Offers or Promises:** Voluntary actions or commitments.
  - Example: *I will help you with your project.*
  - *We will send you the details of the project soon.*
4. **Future plans: (not necessarily arranged yet):**
  - I will visit my grandparents next week.
5. **Polite requests or give commands (orders):**
  - Will you close the door please?
  - You will finish the report by tomorrow.

#### How to Form the Simple Future Tense

- Use **will** or **shall** + the **base form** of the verb (stem).
  - *Will* is used for all subjects (I, you, he, she, it, we, they).
  - *Shall* is less common and is typically used with **I** and **we** for suggestions or formal statements.

#### Signal Words for Simple Future Tense

Next week, next year, in 2030, soon, later ...

**Exercise:** Choose the correct tense (**Simple Present, Simple Past, or Simple Future**) to complete the sentences.

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a book every evening.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the beach last summer.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) my grandparents next weekend.
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not/eat) breakfast this morning.
5. The train \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) at 8 PM every day.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a movie tomorrow.
7. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not/like) spicy food.
8. They \_\_\_\_\_ (play) soccer yesterday.
9. She \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner every evening.
10. They \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) their grandparents last weekend.
11. I \_\_\_\_\_ (call) you as soon as I reach home.
12. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not/go) to school yesterday because he was sick.
13. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (rise) in the east every morning.
14. We \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) to Italy next summer.
15. They \_\_\_\_\_ (not/like) spicy food.
16. I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) my homework before dinner yesterday.
17. The train \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) at 7 PM sharp every day.

