

University of Tikrit
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English Department
First Stage
English Grammar



English Tenses (1)

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TENSES

Tenses denote the time of action. They show when the work is done. They are:

(1) Present Tense

(2) Past Tense

(3) Future Tense

They are further divided into:

(1) Simple Present

It is used to denote scientific facts, universal truths and work done on daily basis.

ASSERTIVE RULE --- sub + V1 + s/es + object

Example – She writes a letter.

NEGATIVE RULE --- sub + does not + v1 + s/es + object

Example – She does not write a letter.

INTERROGATIVE RULE --- Does + sub + v1 + s/es + object

Example – Does she write a letter?

INTERROGATIVE NEGATIVE ASSERTIVE --- Does + sub + not + v1 + s/es + object

Example – Does she not write a letter?

(2) Present Continuous– It is used to express an action taking place at the time of speaking.

ASSERTIVE RULE --- sub + is/am/are + v1 + ing + object

Example – she is writing a letter.

NEGATIVE RULE --- sub + is/am/are + not + v1 + ing + object

Example – She is not writing a letter.

INTERROGATIVE RULE --- is/am/are + sub + v1 + ing + object

Example – Is she writing a letter?

INTERROGATIVE NEGATIVE RULE --- is/am/are + sub + not + v1 + ing + object

Example – Is she not writing a letter?

(3) Present Perfect– It is used to show an action that started in the past and has just finished.

ASSERTIVE RULE --- sub + has/have + v3 + object

Example- She has written a letter.

NEGATIVE RULE --- sub + has/have + not + v3 + object

Example – She has not written a letter.

INTERROGATIVE RULE --- has/have + sub + v3 + object

Example- Has she written a letter?

INTERROGATIVE NEGATIVE RULE ---has/have + sub + not + v3 + object

Example– Has she not written a letter?

(4) Present Perfect Continuous– This tense shows the action which started in the past and is still continuing.

ASSERTIVE RULE --- sub + has/have + been + v1 + ing + object

Example – She has been writing a letter.

NEGATIVE RULE --- sub + has/have + not been + v1 + ing + object

Example– She has not been writing a letter.

INTERROGATIVE RULE ---has/have + sub + been + v1 + ing + object

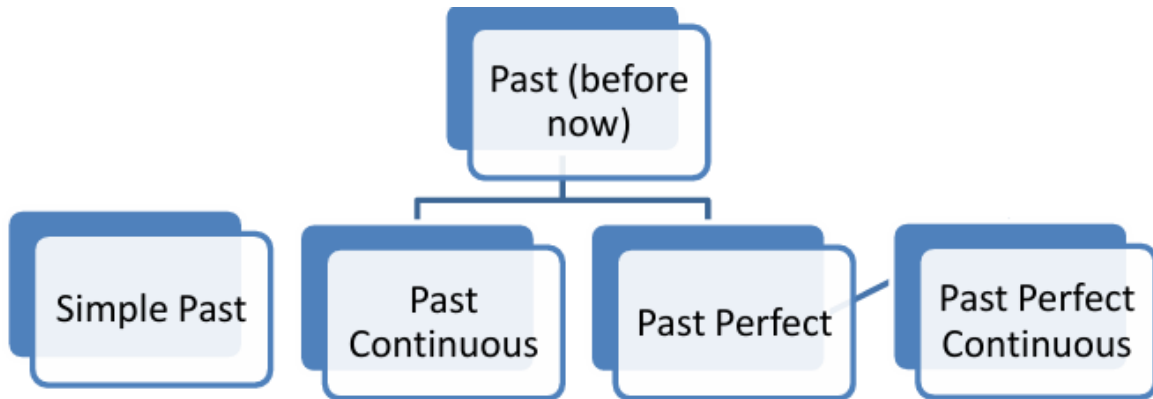
Example – Has she been writing a letter?

INTERROGATIVE NEGATIVE RULE --- has/have + she + not + been + v1 + ing + object

Example – Has she not been writing a letter?

Past Tense

Tense symbolizes the ever moving, non-stop wheel of time which is forever busy gathering moments of future and throwing them into the dustbin of past.



Past Simple

Used to indicate an action completed in the past. It often occurs with adverb of time. Sometimes it is used without an adverb of time.

Used for past habits.

Eg. I played football when I was a child.

Rule: Subject + V2

Eg. She wrote a letter

1. Assertive Sentences –

Subject + V2 + Object + (.)

She wrote a letter.

2. Negative Sentences-

Subject + didn't + V1 + Object + (.)

She didn't write a letter.

3. Interrogative Sentences-

Did + Subject + V1 + Object + (?)

Did she write a letter?

4. Interrogative Negative Sentences-

Did + Subject + not + V1 + Object + (?)

Did she not write a letter?

Past Continuous Tense

Used to denote an action going on at some time in the past.

e.g. I was driving a car.

Rule: was/were + ing

1. Assertive Sentences –

Subject + was/were + V1 + ing + Object + (.)

She was writing a letter.

2. Negative Sentences-

Subject + was/were + not + ing + Object + (.)

She was not writing a letter.

3. Interrogative Sentences-

Was/were + Subject + ing + Object + (?)

Was she writing a letter?

4. Interrogative Negative Sentences-

Was/were + Subject + not + ing + Object + (?)

Was she not writing a letter?

Past Perfect Tense

Used to describe an action completed before a certain moment in the past, usually a long time ago. If two actions happened in the past, past perfect is used to show the action that took place earlier.

e.g. The patient had died before the doctor came.

1. Assertive Sentences –

Subject + had + V3 + Object + (.)

She had written a letter.

2. Negative Sentences-

Subject + had + not + Object + (.)

She had not written a letter.

3. Interrogative Sentences-

Had + Subject + V3 + Object + (?)

Had she written a letter?

4. Interrogative Negative Sentences-

Had + Subject + not + V3 + Object + (?)

Had she not written a letter?