



Reading material from apportion of the content's

TENSE

What is tense?

- Tense is a term used in grammar to indicate the time of the action or event. In any language, tense is divided into three classes, namely: Present tense, Past tense and future tense.
- Each of the above tenses are again divided into four classes. The classification of each tense is listed in the table below.

1. Present tense	2. Past tense	3. Future tense
a) Simple present tense	a) Simple past	a) Simple future tense
b)Present continuous tense	b)Past continuous tense	b) Future continuous tense
c)Present perfect tense	c)Past perfect	c) Future perfect tense
d)Present perfect continuous tense	d) past perfect continuous tense	d) future perfect continuous tense

1. Present tense

a) Simple present tense

-Simple present tense is formed by using the 1st form of the verb.

-adds -s , -es or -ies with the 1st form of the verb when the subject is the 3rd person singular. *Examples:*

She goes for a work every morning.

The baby drinks milk every dat.

They don't study hard.

She doesn't respect elderly people.

Does she like mangoes/?

Do you get ready for school?

Why are you not happy?

How do you know him?

Uses

a) To show an internal truth or natural law.

examples

The world is round.

Water consists of hydrogen and oxygen.

The earth revolves round the earth.

b) To express habitual or every day activity

examples

She takes milk every morning.

I get up every day at 5 o'clock.

She studies for two hours every night.

How often do you wash your hair?

Simple present tense indicates that something was true in the past , is true in the present ,and will be true in the past.

The simple present tense is often used with adverbs or adverb phrase such as often, sometimes, usually, every week,(day, night),twice a year, etc

c) Use simple present tense with state verbs

When the verbs have a meaning of knowledge, sense, perception or emotion

Example

Alem imagines that she will be a good actor someday.

I know how to drive car.

Abebe is deaf he doesn't hear well.

The rotten meat smells bad.

d) To show the historical present in criticism. To discuss writing ,drama ,music, and art and in research that quotes what other people has said

Examples

Dawit presents evidence for the development of the form lower to higher.

The Ethiopians force the Italians to quit Ethiopian at last.

e) In vivid narrative (a series of quick successive actions).It is especially useful to describe the action of play ,opera, etc and is often used by radio commentators at sport events ,public functions etc.

E.g. Abebe now rushes forward and gives a heavy blow to Ahemd.

When the curtain rises, the window opens suddenly and an old man enters.

f) To indicate a future event that takes about time tables /schedules

E.g. our examination begins Monday.

The plane leaves at 9:00 tonight.

g) It is used in conditional sentences type 1

E.g If you study hard, you can succeed.

h) It is used with time clauses to express a future action.

examples

As soon as It stops raining, we will leave.

After she graduates, she will get job. **I) To introduce quotations**

Keats says , “ A thing of beauty is a joy forever.”

Activity

Write the correct form of the simple present of each verb.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. My uncle-----in a factory,
(work) | 2. John and Sue-----glasses, (wear) |
| 3. She never up very early, (get) | 4. I occasionally meat, (eat) |
| 5. The coach at 6 this evening,
(leave) | 6. The concert at 7 next Friday,
(start) |
| 7. The children-----a lot of sweets,
(eat) | 8. He only-----at weekends,
(work) |
| 9. I always-----out on Saturdays,
(go) | |
| 10. Can he manage? - I so. (hope) | |

Activity

Complete the sentences using one of the following:

Cause(s) close(s) drink(s) live(s) opens(s) take(s) place

1. Ann speaks German very well.
2. I never ----- coffee.
3. The swimming pool -----at 9 o'clock and----- at 5:30 every day.
4. Bad driving -----many accidents.
5. My parents -----in a very small flat.
6. The Olympic Games ----- every four years.

2. The present continuous tense

Make the present continuous from the present tense of to be (is,am,are and the -ing)

I am playing.

He/she/ it is playing

We/you they are playing.

She is not studying,

The boys are not playing tennis.

Are you coming with us?

What are you doing?

Uses

- a) **To show actions happening at the time moment of speaking .We use the following** adverbs to indicate actions going on at the time of speaking.

At the moment, now, today this minutes, this month

The girl is singing at the moment.

- b) **For an action that is planned or arranged to take place in the near future.**

I am staying in Addis Ababa till Monday.

My uncle is arriving tomorrow.

- c) **Use present continuous with always to show habitual action often with the idea of** showing disapprove or annoyance.

They are always asking for special favor.

She is always eating too much.

Note:

Some of the verbs in English don't add (ing) when used in continuous tense except in spoken English. These are listed on the table below

Verbs of perception	Emotion	Cognition	Possession
See Smell Taste Recognize	Love Like Desire Want	Hate Dislike Forgive Wish	Remember Know Understand Forget Realize Think Guess Believe
			Have Own Belong Possess Contain Consist

Examples

⇒ I hear a noise. **But not** I am hearing a noise.

- ⇒ Do you understand me? **Not** Are you understanding me?
- ⇒ He wants to help you. **Not He** is wanting to help you?
- ⇒ She does not know the answer. **Not** She is not knowing the answer.
- ⇒ Do you see those lights? **Not** Are you seeing those lights?

Activity

Fill in the blanks with the *present progressive tense* of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 Jill _____ her hair. (wash)
- 2 It _____ dark. (get)
- 3 The dentist _____ Sue's teeth. (examine)
- 4 The train _____ through the tunnel. (pass)
- 5 The men _____ very hard in the sun. (work)
- 6 What _____ the theatre _____ today? (show)
- 7 We _____ a snowman. (make)
- 8 The plane _____ above the clouds. (fly)

Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives

1. Tell him _____.
 A. What you are doing. C. What you are reading?
 B. What are you doing? D. What are you reading.
2. Our English teacher _____ the important points of the day's lesson at this moment.
 A. are explaining B. is explaining. C. Explains
 D. explained.
3. A: what are you doing now?
 B: we _____ the present continuous usage now._
 A. discuss B. were discussing
 B. C. are discussing D. discussed
4. A: Gigaw. Is Teshome here now?
 B: Gnawey: Yes look, he is over there he _____ to Abraham.
 A. Talks B. Talked C. are talking D. is talking
5. The number of cars on the roads of Addis Ababa _____ rapidly from time to time.
 A. Are increasing C. was increasing.
 B. Is increasing D. Were increasing.

Activity

Put the verb in the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

1. Let's go out. It isn't raining (not /rain) now.
2. Julia is very good at languages. She _____ (speak) four languages very well.
3. Hurry up! Everybody _____ (wait) for you.
4. '_____ (you /listen) to the radio?' 'No you can turn it off.'
5. '_____ (you /listen) to the radio every day?' 'No, just occasionally.'
6. The river Nile _____ (flow) in to the Mediterranean.
7. How is your English" 'Not bad. It _____ (improve) slowly.'

8. Normally I ----- (finish) work at 5:00, but this week I -----
(work) until 6:00 to earn a bit more money.

Activity

Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

1. I ' m seeing the manager tomorrow morning. -----
2. I ' m feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat? -----
3. Are you believing in God? -----
4. This sauce is great. It's tasting really good. -----
5. I ' m thinking this is your key. Am I right? -----

3. Present perfect tense

Make the present perfect tense from I/we/you/they+ have +v3 or he /she /it + has+v3

I have played.

Has he been a teacher in this school?

Who has broken the window?

He hasn't done anything wrong.

Uses

- a) ***Is used to express an action that began in the past and still going on. The present perfect tense when used with for or since expresses a situation in the past and continues to the present/***

Since

Since 1980

Tuesday

Six o'clock

My birth day

yesterday

for

for 20 years

for very long time

I have known him all my life (I still know him)

-My father has lived here for forty years (and he is still living here)

-I have smoked since I left school (I still smoke)

He has been ill for four years.

I have taught English since 1984 E.C

NB: We must use a time expression here like: for, since, all day, all night, all the time, all my life, always, ever, recently, never,...etc.

- b) ***To describe past events when we think of their effect in the present than of the action itself***

I have cut my finger (and it is bleeding now)

She has finished her work. now she is free.

I have had my dinner (& so I don't need anything to eat)

We have finished our work (& so we are free now)

The war has ended (so there is peace)

I. Complete the following blank spaces with the correct form of the verbs given in the bracket .use present perfect tense

1. It----- (has/have/be) very wet today.
2. Sam ----- (has/have/score) two goals.
3. I----- (have/has/just/finish) my shower
4. Brother Mintesnot----- (have/has/lose) his wallet.
5. Gelaw----- (have/has/live) in Arba Minch for ten years
6. Beyene----- (has/have/go) to school.
7. Mom----- (has/have/sleep) for two hours
8. I----- (has/have /eat) my lunch.
9. I----- (has/have/not/see) him lately.
10. We-----(have/has/read) the instructions, but I don't understand them.
- 11.They---(has/have/have) their dinner (& so they don't need anything to eat)
12. I----- (has/have/know) him all my life (I still know him)
13. I-----have/has/smoke) since I left school (I still smoke)

II.Choose the correct answer to complete each sentences

1. How long ____ there?

A. do you lived . B. did you lived. C. you lived. D. have you lived.

2. Serawit__ in Tokyo for four years. He is working there and likes it very much.

A. was B. is C. has been D. had been

3. This is one of the most important English tests that I ____ since 1980

A. has taken B. have taken C. was given D. were given

4. Wife: Can you milk a cow?

Husband: Yes, but I ____ since I left my father's farm.

A: haven't milked B. milk C. don't milk D. have milked

5. My father and his children ___ to stay with us

A. Coming B. comes C. has come D. have come

Write the correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets in the following dialogues.

1. A: can you tell me when you started learning English?

B: I (has/have) learned English since 1980.

2. A: you (has/have) your home work?

B. Yes, I (has/have) done most of the assignments.

3. A. I (have/has) read this fiction since yesterday.

B. Yet, I(have/has) not finished)the first chapter.

4. A. It must be a long novel. Can you lend me?

A. Sure. But, you should return it when you (have/has) finish reading it

Activity

In pairs, answer the following questions about the sentences in bold face.

1. Gelaw has lived in Arba Minch for ten years. Where is Gelaw now?

2. Beyene has gone to school. Where is Beyene now?

3. Mom has slept for two hours. What is Mom Doing now?

4. I've eaten my lunch. Do I want to eat now?

Why _____

Activity

Write the correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets in the following dialogues.

5. A: can you tell me when you started learning English?

B: I (has/have) learned English since 1980.

6. A: you (has/have) your home work?

B. Yes, I (has/have) done most of the assignments.

7. A. I (have/has) read this fiction since yesterday.

B. Yet, I (have/has) not finished)the first chapter.

8. A. It must be a long novel. Can you lend me?

B. Sure. But, you should return it when you (have/has) finish reading it

Activity

Choose the correct answer to complete each sentences

1. How long ____ there?

B. do you lived . B. did you lived. C. you lived. D. have you lived.

2. Serawit _____ in Tokyo for four years. He is working there and likes it very much.

A. was B. is C. has been D. had been

3. This is one of the most important English tests that I ____ since 1980

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4. Wife: Can you milk a cow?

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5. My father and his children ____ to stay with us

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4. **Present perfect continuous tense**

Make the present perfect continuous from the present tense of have+been+ing

He/she/it has been playing

They/we/you/I have been playing.

He hasn't been reading.

Has he been living in this area for seven years?

Uses

a) To indicate the duration of an activity that began in the past and continuous to the present

There is no meaning difference with present perfect tense

I have been sitting here since 9 o'clock.

How long have you been for reading that book?

It has been raining for two hours.

It is raining now. It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.

How long *has it been raining?*

It has been raining for two hours.

You're out of breath. Have you been running?(you're out of breath now)

Paul is very tired. He's been working very hard. (he's tired now)

Activity One

Using the information given in the table, write sentences in present perfect continuous tense. Follow the example. Assume the actions are now taking place

Name of student	Activity	Time
Ahmed	Studying lessons	Morning – up to now
Zinash	Washing clothes	Morning – up to now
Azeb	Watching a film	Since 10: 00 am
Tiruneh	Reading a book	Since 11:30 am
Simret	Watering plants	Since 11:30 am

Example

1. Ahmed has been studying his lessons since this morning.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.