Tense

The form of verb in English tells us the time of action - past or present.

We have only two forms of verb to suggest time-past and present

We do not have future tense in English but there are a few ways of talking about the future



Primary Auxiliaries- Modals

- Primary Auxiliaries
- Be forms- am, is, are, was, were
- has, have, had, do, does, did,

 Modals: will- would, shall- should, cancould, may –might, must, dare, ought, need, used

Simple present and past

I play You play He plays I playedYou PlayedHe played

Progressive

I am

playing

He is

You are

was

You were playing

He was

Perfect

■ I have

You have played

He has

I had

You had played

He had

Simple present

■ The structure of the sentence

■ Sub+ verb

Ex . RCI conducts training classes for scientists

Politicians address people's grievances

Barking dogs seldom bite



Area of Application

- Habitual action, Regular action, Something which happens every day, every year, as a matter of routine
- Celebrations Generalized statements/observations
- Representation of facts
- Headlines/titles Commentary

Some more examples

- Mallika prefers her coffee hot
- Corporate sector prefers creative minded people for recruitment
- Deepthi hates going to work late
- Many nations spend a large part of the revenue on defense
- Nitya's mother tongue is Tamil. However, she speaks Hindi well

Present continuous

■ Sub + am/ is /are+ ing form of verb

To represent an action which is actually happening

Ex The class is going on. He is speaking

To represent an action which may or may not be in progress-but the action has started and will continue

Ex I am preparing for exams

Not this way

She is not feeling any pain

- I am not smelling anything
- They are not hearing my voice
- We are not seeing any picture

Incorrect- Correct

- The thief is absconding
- I am believing it
- The jar is containing coffee
- It is costing me Rs10
- He is resembling his father
- I am hearing the bell

- The thief has absconded
- I believe it
- The jar contains coffee
- It costs me Rs 10
- He resembles his father
- I hear the bell

Present perfect

■ Sub+ has / have+ Past participle

Ex: She has gone home/ India has won the match

 State-up-to-present: extends over a period of time lasting up to the present moment

■ Ex: We have known each other for 20 years

Inclusive use

1 Inclusive use: a completed activity sometime in the past with present relevance

Ex I have seen sholay

2 Usually for an action which was over in the recent past but with out the clause /phrase of time

I have met him.

Present perfect

- The present perfect is also used to show you have never done something or that you haven't done something during a period of time which continues up to the present.
- I <u>have never been</u> to the 3D theatre.
- I <u>haven't smoked</u> for a year now.
- I <u>haven't acted</u> in a play since last September.
- Suman <u>hasn't written</u> to me for a year now.

Observe

- Just
- So far—thus far

- Already
- Recently
- Never
- Yet
- Still

Present perfect continuous tense

■ Sub+ has/have+been+ing form of the verb

 They have been working on the project for quite some time

For an action which has started in the past—specially when you would like emphasis on time

I have been waiting for the bus for a long time

Simple present and present continuous

- My car gives me trouble always
- My car is giving me trouble, of late.

Raju always comes late Raju is coming late too often

Present cont and present perfect cont

- He is pursuing the case
- He has been pursuing the case

- David is trying for the post
- David has been trying for the post

Simple past

- Sub+ Past tense form of verb
- She went home
- India won the cricket match
- Virat Kohli hit a century

Any action where the action was completed

Narrative: used to indicate a sequence of events of the past

The association met the chief minister and submitted a memorandum. The CM sought time to consider their demands

Repeated events in the past

While he was alive, he visited the library everyday

Past continuous

■ Sub+ was/were+ ing form of verb

I was watching TV when he arrived

For an action which was in progress at a particular point of time in the past

2

In combination with simple past to represent two actions

He shot the bird when it was flying

Some examples

We were shopping all this morning

 He was listening attentively while I was talking

While I was talking the bell rang

■ We were living there until his retirement

Past perfect

■ Sub+ had+ Past participle

Ex When he reached the cinema, the film had begun.

 Used to show temporal sequence between two actions of the past

Some examples

- I had seen her before she saw me
- She didn't see me till I had seen her
- The meeting began after we had had tea
- I left the house after I had finished reading the newspaper
- He took holiday after he had finished the project

Activity

 A) He wrote to his father B) After that he went out

- A) I dressed up. B) I went out
- A) I walked a little way B)It started to rain
- A) He waited for sometime B) After that the librarian gave him a book

Past perfect continuous

- Sub+had+been+ing form of the verb
- Radha had been working in the college when David joined it.
- To represent an action which was in progress when another action started

Some more examples

- I had been working as a teacher before I became a writer
- When I fell ill, I had been writing a book
- The train arrived after we had waited for twenty minutes
- He had studied India for ten years before he decided to join politics

Future

- Sub+ will/shall+ verb
- To denote any action which is going to take place in future definite or indefinite

She will go home

You will never fail if you study hard

Shall I open the door?

For requests or suggestions etc

Future progressive

Sub+ will+ be + ing form verb
Ex By this time next year, I will be living in my new house

Ex The new Vice Chancellor will be addressing the faculty

For an action which will be in progress at a particular point of time in future

Future perfect

Sub+ will /shall+ past participle
Something which will come to a close at a point of time in future

I will have finished my work by then