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FREE PRINTABLE

English Tenses Book

Past, present and future, one small lesson at a time, with practice and every answer.



13 PAGES · ANSWERS INCLUDED

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How to use this book

Past, present and future

Tenses show when something happens. Eight small lessons, each with a rule, examples and six sentences to complete.



Present	What is happening or true now	Present simple, present continuous
Past	What already happened	Past simple, past continuous
Future	What will happen	will, going to
Links the two	Past, with a link to now	Present perfect

How to use the book

1. **Read the box** at the top of the lesson aloud.
2. **Say the examples,** then make one about your own day.
3. **Fill in the six sentences** in pencil.
4. **Check with the answers** on pages 12 and 13.

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What this book is

It is a first look at eight common tenses, in English only. It does not cover every tense or every exception, it is not matched to any school board or exam, and no age or level is given. Do one lesson at a time.

Present simple

Lesson 1 of 8



Things that happen again and again, and things that are always true.

I, YOU, WE, THEY
I play.

HE, SHE, IT (ADD S)
She plays.

NOT
He does not play.

QUESTION
Does she play?

Examples

- I brush my teeth every morning.
- Ravi plays cricket on Sundays.
- The sun rises in the east.
- Birds fly.

Time words

every day · always · usually · never · on Sundays

BE CAREFUL

~~He play cricket.~~

He plays cricket.

Practice: complete each sentence

1. She _____ (read) a book every night.
2. We _____ (go) to school by bus.
3. The cat _____ (not like) water.
4. _____ he like mangoes? (Do / Does)
5. Birds _____ (fly).
6. My brother _____ (wash) his hands before dinner.

Present continuous

Lesson 2 of 8



Something that is happening right now, as you speak.

AM / IS / ARE + VERB-ING
I am reading.

SHE, HE, IT
She is reading.

NOT
He is not reading.

QUESTION
Is he reading?

Examples

- The baby is sleeping.
- It is raining.
- We are learning English.
- Look! The dog is running.

Time words

now | at the moment | today | Look! | Listen!

BE CAREFUL

~~I am go to school now.~~

I am going to school now.

Practice: complete each sentence

1. The children _____ (play) in the garden.
2. I _____ (write) a letter now.
3. Mother _____ (cook) dinner.
4. It _____ (not rain) today.
5. _____ you listening? (Is / Are)
6. The bird _____ (sing).

Past simple: regular verbs

Lesson 3 of 8



Something that started and finished in the past.

VERB + ED
I walked.

SPELLING
play → played, like → liked, study → studied

NOT (DID NOT + VERB)
She did not walk.

QUESTION
Did she walk?

Examples

- Yesterday I played football.
- We visited my grandmother last week.
- She laughed at the joke.
- It rained all night.

Time words

yesterday | last night | last week | two days ago

BE CAREFUL

~~She did not walked.~~

She did not walk.

Practice: complete each sentence

1. I _____ (clean) my room yesterday.
2. They _____ (visit) the zoo last Sunday.
3. She _____ (not watch) TV last night.
4. _____ you finish your homework? (Did / Do)
5. We _____ (play) cricket yesterday.
6. The baby _____ (cry) all night.

Past simple: irregular verbs

Lesson 4 of 8



Some common verbs change in the past. They do not add ed. Learn them a few at a time.

GO → WENT
eat → ate

SEE → SAW
have → had

COME → CAME
take → took

MAKE → MADE
buy → bought

Examples

- I went to the market.
- She ate two mangoes.
- We saw a rainbow.
- He did not go to school. (did not + go)

Time words

yesterday | last month | a long time ago | in the morning (yesterday)

BE CAREFUL

~~I goed to the park.~~

I went to the park.

Practice: complete each sentence

1. Yesterday I _____ (go) to the park.
2. She _____ (eat) rice for lunch.
3. We _____ (see) a big elephant.
4. He _____ (have) a cold last week.
5. They _____ (come) home late.
6. I _____ (not buy) any sweets.

Past continuous

Lesson 5 of 8



What was happening at a moment in the past, often when something else happened.

WAS / WERE + VERB-ING
I was reading.

YOU, WE, THEY
They were playing.

NOT
She was not sleeping.

QUESTION
Were you sleeping?

Examples

- I was eating when the phone rang.
- It was raining at six o'clock.
- The children were playing in the garden.
- We were walking to school.

Time words

at six o'clock yesterday · while · when · all morning

BE CAREFUL

~~They was playing.~~

They were playing.

Practice: complete each sentence

1. I _____ (read) when you called.
2. They _____ (play) in the park.
3. She _____ (not sleep) at ten.
4. _____ you watching TV? (Was / Were)
5. It _____ (rain) all morning.
6. While Mum _____ (cook), I did my homework.

Future with will

Lesson 6 of 8



What we think will happen, and things we decide as we speak.

WILL + VERB
I will help you.

SAME FOR EVERY PERSON
She will help you.

NOT (WILL NOT OR WON'T)
It will not rain.

QUESTION
Will you come?

Examples

- I will call you tomorrow.
- It will be hot next week.
- She will be ten next year.
- We will see.

Time words

tomorrow · next week · soon · in two days

BE CAREFUL

~~He will goes home.~~

He will go home.

Practice: complete each sentence

1. I _____ (call) you tomorrow.
2. It _____ (be) hot next week.
3. She _____ (not come) today.
4. _____ you help me? (Will / Would)
5. We _____ (visit) Granny soon.
6. They _____ (not forget) the way.

Going to

Lesson 7 of 8



Plans we have already made, and things we can see are about to happen.

AM / IS / ARE GOING TO + VERB
I am going to play.

SHE, HE, IT
She is going to play.

NOT
They are not going to play.

QUESTION
Are you going to play?

Examples

- I am going to visit my cousin on Sunday.
- She is going to buy a new bag.
- We are going to paint the wall.
- Look at the clouds. It is going to rain.

Time words

tomorrow · next week · this evening · Look!

BE CAREFUL

~~I going to play.~~

I am going to play.

Practice: complete each sentence

1. I _____ (visit) Granny on Sunday.
2. She _____ (buy) a new bag.
3. They _____ (not play) today.
4. _____ you going to eat? (Are / Is)
5. Look at the sky. It _____ (rain).
6. We _____ (paint) the wall.

Present perfect

Lesson 8 of 8



Something that happened at a time we do not say, and that matters now.

HAVE / HAS + PAST PARTICIPLE
I have eaten.

SHE, HE, IT
She has finished.

NOT
We have not seen it.

QUESTION
Have you eaten?

Examples

- I have finished my homework.
- She has lost her pen.
- We have seen that film.
- Have you ever ridden a horse? (ride → ridden)

Time words

already · just · yet · ever · never

BE CAREFUL

~~I have went home.~~

I have gone home.

Practice: complete each sentence

1. I _____ (finish) my homework.
2. She _____ (eat) lunch already.
3. We _____ (not see) that film.
4. _____ you ever ridden a horse? (Have / Has)
5. He _____ (lose) his pen.
6. They _____ (just, arrive).

Review: which tense?

Ten sentences

Circle the right word or words in each sentence.

1. Every morning I (wake / woke) up at six.
2. Yesterday we (go / went) to the zoo.
3. Look! It (rains / is raining).
4. Tomorrow I (will visit / visited) my aunt.
5. She (was cooking / cooks) when the bell rang.
6. I (have finished / am finishing) my homework, so I can play now.
7. Water (boils / boiled) when it is very hot.
8. Last week he (broke / breaks) his toy.
9. We (are going to / went) paint the wall next week.
10. They (did not play / do not played) yesterday.

My own sentences

Write one sentence of your own in a tense you like.

Answers

Lessons 1 to 5

1. Present simple

1. reads
2. go
3. does not like
4. Does
5. fly
6. washes

2. Present continuous

1. are playing
2. am writing
3. is cooking
4. is not raining
5. Are
6. is singing

3. Past simple: regular verbs

1. cleaned
2. visited
3. did not watch
4. Did
5. played
6. cried

4. Past simple: irregular verbs

1. went
2. ate
3. saw
4. had
5. came
6. did not buy

5. Past continuous

1. was reading
2. were playing
3. was not sleeping
4. Were
5. was raining
6. was cooking

Answers

Lessons 6 to 8, and the review

6. Future with will

1. will call
2. will be
3. will not come
4. Will
5. will visit
6. will not forget

7. Going to

1. am going to visit
2. is going to buy
3. are not going to play
4. Are
5. is going to rain
6. are going to paint

8. Present perfect

1. have finished
2. has eaten
3. have not seen
4. Have
5. has lost
6. have just arrived

Review

1. wake
2. went
3. is raining
4. will visit
5. was cooking
6. have finished
7. boils
8. broke
9. are going to
10. did not play