

Lesson 10 - (Class IX-X) **Understanding Different Tenses** **Materials Designed by BRAC University Centre for Languages (CfL)**

Sir Salimullah Medical College (old name Mitford Hospital): Past and Present



Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) is a government medical college in Bangladesh. It is located in the old part of the capital, Dhaka.

The college was established in 1875 as Dhaka Medical School, and Mitford hospital was a part of it. Sixteen local kings and philanthropists helped in constructing the medical school building in 1889. The school was made a medical college in 1962. To acknowledge the contributions of the Nawabs, the college was named after Nawab Sir Salimullah (1871-1915). Until 1957 License of Medical Faculty (LMF) degree was offered from this college. During 1963-1972 courses for MBBS degree were offered. In 1972 it was upgraded as a full-fledged medical college and the first batch of students for MBBS degree enrolled in 1973.

At present, this medical college possesses a 600 bed general hospital and an integrated emergency department. 175 students having HSC/A-level education are admitted each year through an open competitive examination. Students are awarded undergraduate MBBS degree after 5 years' of study in college and hospital and 3 professional examinations under the University of Dhaka. Then, they do 1 year full residency training in the hospital to get registration for practising medicine.

For its century old reputation, SSMC draws in students not only from Bangladesh, but also from all over the world, such as, USA, Canada, Nigeria, Syria, Iran, Palestine, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Srilanka, Mauritius, Malaysia, Bhutan etc.

Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian human rights activist, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her significant effort on democracy and human rights. She was the first ever Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize. Let us read the following article where she talks about herself.



My Movement and Me

I am Shirin Ebadi. I have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize as the first Iranian in history. The Nobel Committee has honoured me for my campaign on Human Rights and Democracy in Iran.

I was born in the city of Hamedan in 1947. I graduated from Tehran University and became Iran's first female Judge in 1975. Unfortunately, the authority forced me to resign from the court after the Islamic Revolution in 1979, as the new government did not allow women to be judges. During that time, I wrote many books and articles on Human Rights. Therefore, in 1992 I received a lawyer certificate and started working for children.

Personally, I am a woman of quiet and soft nature. On the other hand, I am strict and stubborn when I defend and support the oppressed people. At present, I am working to promote Human Rights. This work has brought me admiration from the whole world. I dream of a world free from injustice and violation of human rights.

[Abridged from www.writespirit.net/authors/shirin_ebadi]

After reading the above text can you now identify the tenses of the following sentences?

1. I **am** Shirin Ebadi.
2. I **graduated** from Tehran University and **became** Iran's first female Judge in 1975.
3. At present, I **am working** to promote Human Rights.
4. This work **has brought** me admiration from the whole world.
5. I **have** a dream to create a world free from injustice.

Tenses give information about the time when an action takes place. You have to choose the right tense to indicate the right meaning and time in your sentences.

(I) You can identify tenses by looking at the verbs of the sentences. For present tense use the base form of the verb. For example,

Boys of our village play football in the afternoon.
I want to learn English.

(II) Remember, we must add 's' or 'es' if the subject is third person and singular number. For example,

Karim always plays football in the afternoon.

(III) Try to use the same tense throughout your sentence and your paragraph. For example,

Correct : When I open the door, my dog greets me. (**present tense**)
Incorrect : When I open the door (**present tense**), my dog greeted (**past tense**) me.
Correct : When I opened the door, my dog greeted me. (**Past tense**).

(IV) Learn the past and the past participle forms of the verbs. Some verbs do not change, such as,

cut, cost, hit, hurt, put, shut etc

(V) Use the present tense to describe something that is universally true and not limited to a particular time. For example,

The boiling point of water is 100 degrees Celsius.

(VI) Use the present tense to discuss the contents of a book, a poem, or an essay although they might be written in the past. For example,

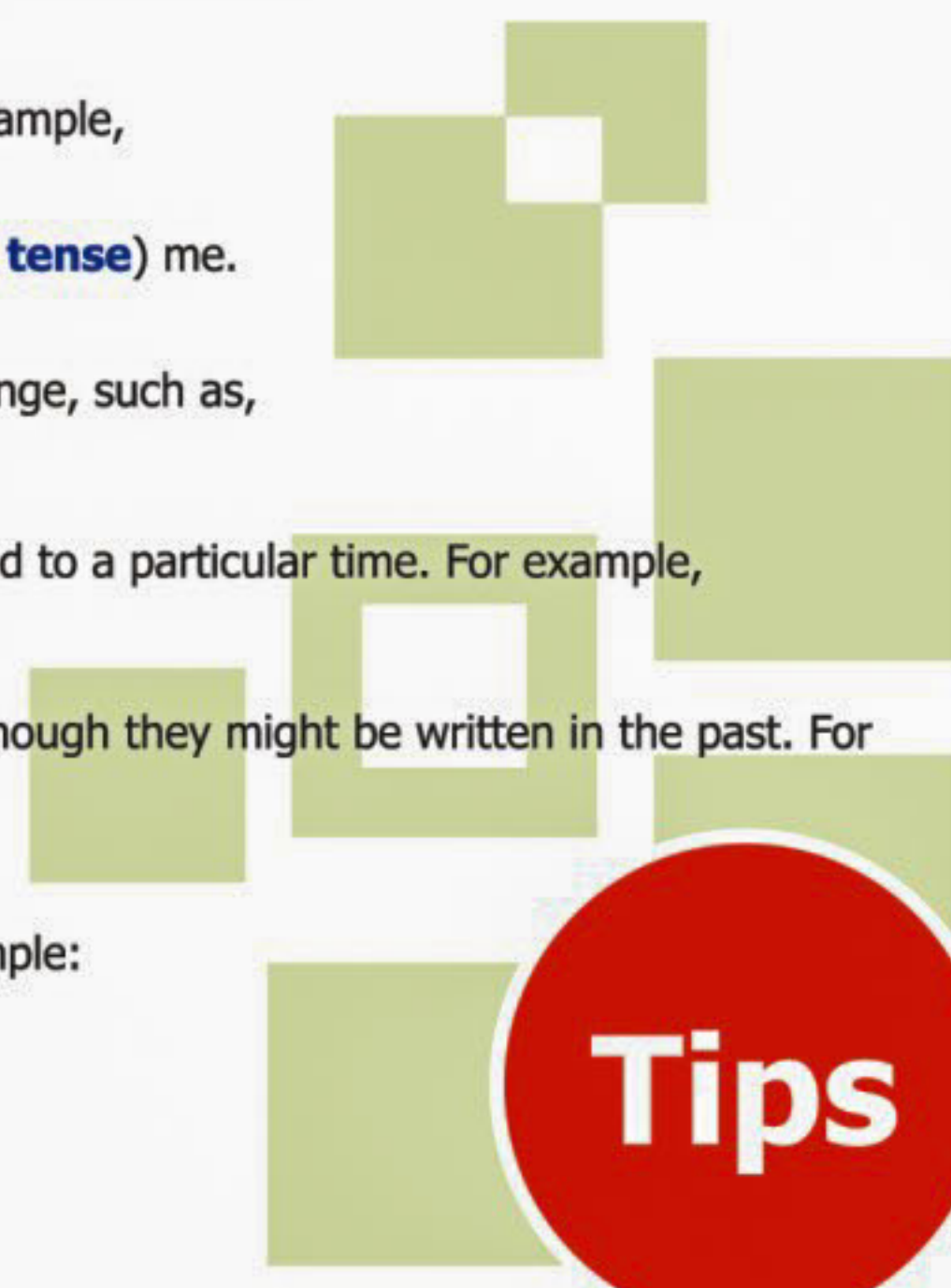
Julius Caesar is murdered by Brutus in Shakespeare's play.

(VII) You can use the present continuous tense for plans and arrangements. For example:

We are arranging a picnic at the end of the month.
I am seeing my dentist on Wednesday.
Are you doing anything tonight?
We are not going to play this afternoon.

(VIII) Use 'will' to talk about a future event which is not certain. For example,

I will visit Cox's Bazaar someday (uncertain).



Vocabulary of the Week

- Acknowledge** (verb): to accept, admit or recognize something
- Activist** (noun): a person who believes strongly in political or social changes and works hard to try and make this happen
- Alien** (noun): an unknown foreigner
- Defend** (verb): to protect someone or something against attack or criticism
- Full-fledged** (adjective): completely developed or trained
- Oppressed** (adjective): ruled in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom
- Philanthropist** (noun): a person who helps the poor, especially by giving them money
- Revolution** (noun): a change in the way a country is ruled
- Stubborn** (adjective): a person who is determined to do what he/she wants

[Source: www.dictionary.cambridge.org]



Illustration : Yousuf Ali Khan Hira



Be careful, it is suicidal!

Abide by the rules. Never ever take chances on this critical situation. An over confidence may lead to a disaster. The rate of rail crossing accidents is on the rise. A train takes just a few moments to pass the crossing. Can we not wait for those few moments for the sake of our life?

Be careful and save your life.