englishinschools



DON'T GET TENSED WITH ENGLISH TENSES!!

Verb Tenses Made Easy

Verb tenses are changed to indicate whether an action happened in the present, the past, or the future. There are six verb tenses used in English:

three simple tenses and three perfect tenses.

Simple Tenses Present & (Present Progressive) Past & (Past Progressive) Future & (Future Progressive)

Perfect Tenses Present Perfect Past Perfect Future Perfect

The Simple Tenses

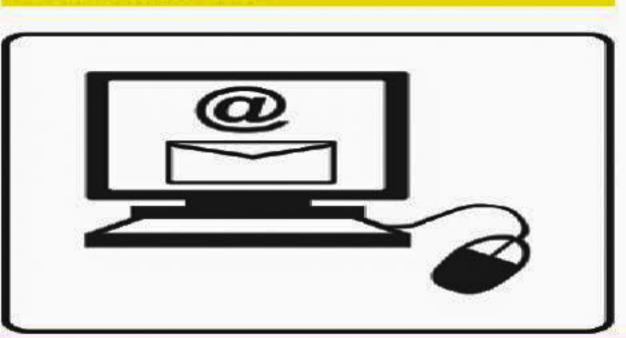
The simple tenses, including the (progressives), indicate the relationship between the time the action is taking place and the time when the sentence describing that action is being spoken or written.

For example:

Present Tense: He reads (is reading) the book. (He is reading the book at this very moment.) Past Tense: He read (was reading) the book. (He read the book prior to this moment.)

Future Tense: He will read (will be reading) the book. (He will read the book at some point in the future.)

Note: The present tense is sometimes used to show time/action relationships which are not simple present.





For example:

*Habitual Action

Actions which are habitual or routine: He works in the library.

*Historical Present

Actions that happened in the past, but are placed in present tense in order to make them more realistic for readers and listeners: Julius Caesar leads the army. *Future

Actions which indicate future time: My flight leaves this evening.



The Perfect Tenses

The perfect tenses use a specific time as a point of reference and indicate that the action was completed, or perfected, prior to that time. Note that the perfect tenses use the auxiliary (helping) verb 'to have'.



For example:

Present Perfect Tense: He has read the book. (He finished reading the book prior to this

moment.) Past Perfect (Pluperfect) Tense: He had read the book by

> that time. (He finished reading the book prior to a

specified time in the past.)

Future Perfect: He will have read the book by that time. He will finish reading the book prior to a specified time in the future.)

VERB TENSES IN ACADEMIC WRITING

What verb tense should I use?

Students should use past tense whenever possible in formal academic writing. However, there are a few circumstances in which students may be required to use other tenses. One of these is a Response Paper, where students offer their personal analysis of an assigned reading. Another would be a Literature Paper, where events from the work are described in present tense to convey the idea that "the author is communicating to a present reader in the present time" (Ryan 68).

How do I know whether to use a simple or a perfect tense?

If you are describing actions which are not necessarily being completed? actions which may be ongoing or habitual? then you will need to use one of the simple tenses. If you are describing an action that was or will be completed at a specific time, you will need to use one of the perfect tenses.

Can I switch verb tenses?

Students should always be consistent with verb tenses, especially when distinguishing between actions which are ongoing and those which have been completed. Students writing in the historical present tense should be especially careful with verb tenses; shifting between the historical present tense and past tense when describing a specific event may cause confusion for readers or listeners.

TASK 1

Put the verb in brackets into the correct form!

I come from a very large family and recently my parents they (DECIDE) that (SPEND) long enough living in an overcrowded house in Birmingham. "We _____ (MOVE) to the country", my (ANNOUNCE) one evening. "I ______ (SELL) this house and we _____ (LIVE) on a farm". _____ (LOAD) So last week we ___ all our belongings into two hired vans, and for the last few days we ______ (TRY) to organise ourselves in our new home. Yesterday, for example, my two brothers and I _ (START) painting the upstairs rooms. Unfortunately, while I ______ (MIX) the paint, one of my brothers _____ door. Nobody (OPEN) the (TELL) him that we (BE) in the room. So

_ (SPEND) all morning cleaning paint off the floor. But worse things _ PEN) since then. This morning, when I (WAKE) up, water (DRIP) through the ceiling next to my bed. We _____

instead of painting the walls

(SPENT) the last five hours repairing the roof. It is not all bad news though. The school in the village nearby (CLOSE) down two parents and years (NOT FIND) another

school for us yet.

TASK 2

Dear Mum,

soon.

Kate

SCHOOL

Put the verb in brackets into the PRESENT SIMPLE or PRESENT CONTINUOUS tense!

(JUST WRITE)

to tell you how much I
(APPRECIATE) the money you have sent me, and to tell
you how I (GET) on in my
first term at university. In fact, I
(REALLY ENJOY) myself. I
(STUDY) quite hard as well, but at the moment I (SPEND) a lot of time
making new friends. I (STILL
STAY) with my friend Jill and I
(LOOK) for some place to live on my own. Only a small
number of first year students
(LIVE) in college here and I
(SEEM) to be spending a lot of time travelling.
(ATTEND) lectures every morning,
and most afternoons I (STUDY)
in the library. In fact, I
(WRITE) this letter right now instead of an essay on
Shakespeare.
I think I'll buy some new clothes with the money you've
sent me. Everything (COST)
a lot here, and I (SAVE) to buy a coat
for the winter months. It
(GET) really cold here in the evenings.
I now (KNOW) some
other students and we (HAVE)
quite a good time. I
(ALSO LEARN) to drive. University students
(GET) a refund if they take their
(GET) a rejuna ij they take then

(LOOK) forward to coming home next month. See you

TASK 3

Fill in the correct form of the PRESENT TENSE (simple and progressive)

Dear Editor:	
I (WRITE) this letter because	it
(SEEM) to me that far too ma	ny
changes (TAKE) place in my count	ry
these days, and, as a result, we	
(LOSE) our identity.	
I (LIVE) in a small town b	111
even this town (CHANG	
before my eyes. For example, town authoriti	
(BUILD) a burger place whe	
my favourite restaurant used to be. Our cultu	
(BELONG) to everybody, as	
I (NOT UNDERSTAND) why t	
town leaders (NOT DO)	
preserve it. They simply (NO	
CARE). In fact, I (THINK) of starting	
action group. I (APPEAR) or	
TV show on Friday evening to make people aware of ho	
important this issue is. It's time for us to start doi	
something before it (GET) to	00
late.	
	-



TASK 4

in the given tense.

Write sentences from the words

1. He - be - an interesting man (past simple) 2. I - arrive - at 11. (going-to future)

3. I - not do - that - if - I - be - you (conditional 1 and past simple)

4. Many people - wear - dark clothes - night (present

simple) 5. He - discuss - the topic - for the last two weeks

(present perfect progressive)

6. They - just finish - homework (present perfect simple)

7. She -get up- now? (present progressive)

8. Prime Minster - speak - on TV - but - he - ill

(conditional 2 and past perfect simple)

9. When - he - come back -workers - already clean -pavement (past simple and past perfect simple) 10. What -you - do - yesterday evening? (past progressive)

11. The boys -play - football - whole day (present

perfect progressive) 12. He -often - shop - Harrods. (present simple)

13. If - I - see - lights - I - stop (past simple and conditional 1)

14. He said - Mum -already - go out (past perfect

simple)

15. I - run into -Tom- yesterday (past simple) 16. Next week - I - sit - on the beach

(future progressive)

17. The sales - start - next Monday (present progressive) 18. When - I - enter - classroom - lesson - go on (past simple and progressive)

19. Can - you - ski - when - you - be - little ?(past simple)

20. I - ski - when - I - be - at the university (past

simple)

21. How long - you - work - company? (present perfect

progressive)

22. She – sell – the ring (conditional 2)

I – learn – type – now (present progressive)

24. You - hear - from - him -lately? (present perfect simple)

25. You - see - moon - last night? (past simple)

Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED OCTOBER 24, 2016)

KEY:

A l. 'm trying 2. 'm not using 3. 's teaching 4. 'm

looking 5. Are you waiting B 1. do not belong 2. is coming do not want 3. doesn't

eat 4. am looking 5. take C1. remembers 2. works 3. 'm working 4. 's snowing

5. are they talking



