

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 | Perfect Tenses |
| Present & (Present Progressive) | Present Perfect |
| Past & (Past Progressive) | Past Perfect |
| Future & (Future Progressive) | Future Perfect |

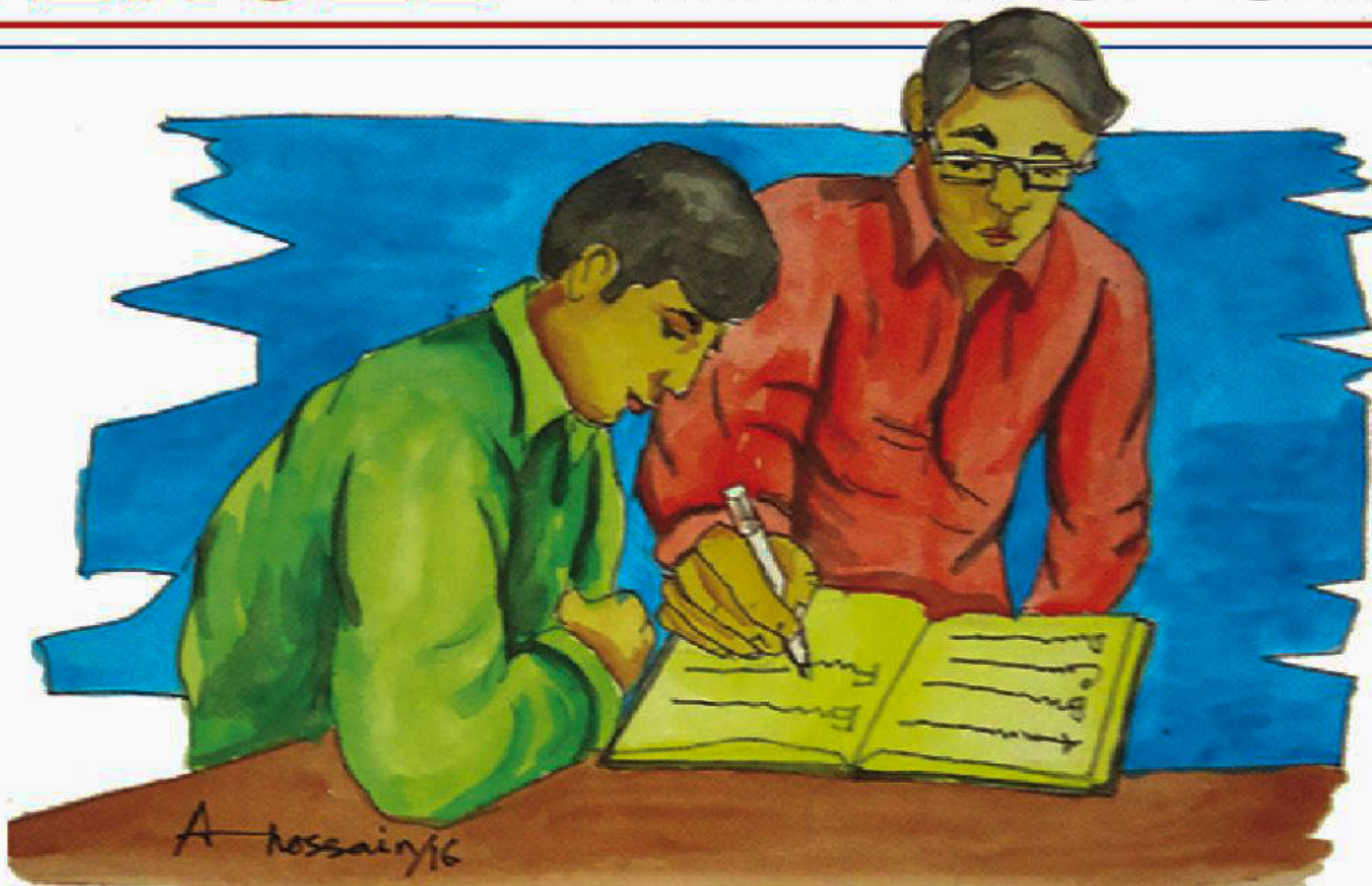
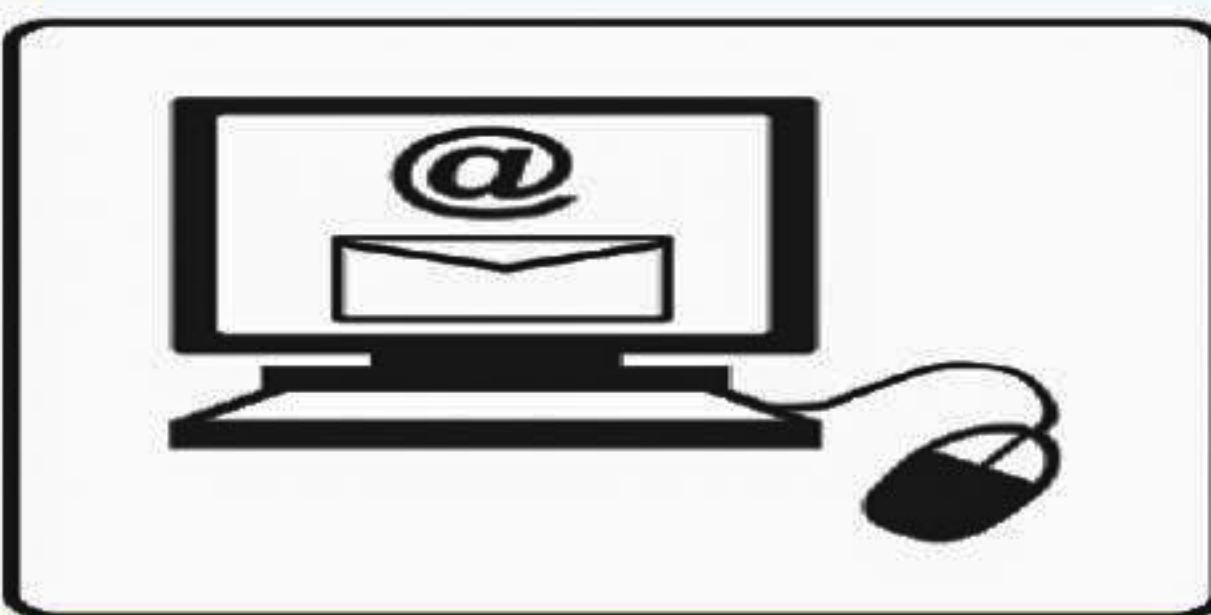
The Simple Tenses

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'.



TASK 1

Put the verb in brackets into the correct form!

I come from a very large family and recently my parents _____ (DECIDE) that they _____ (SPEND) long enough living in an overcrowded house in Birmingham. "We _____ (MOVE) to the country", my father _____ (ANNOUNCE) one evening. "I _____ (SELL) this house and we _____ (LIVE) on a farm". So last week we _____ (LOAD) 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 _____ (OPEN) the door. Nobody _____ (TELL) him that we _____ (BE) in the room. So instead of painting the walls we _____ (SPEND) all morning cleaning paint off the floor. But worse things _____ (HAPPEN) since then. This morning, when I _____ (WAKE) up, water _____ (DRIP) through the ceiling next to my bed. We _____ (SPEND) the last five hours repairing the roof. It is not all bad news though. The school in the village nearby _____ (CLOSE) down two years ago, and _____ (NOT FIND) another school for us yet.

TASK 2

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

Dear Mum,
I _____ (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. I _____ (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 tests here. I _____ (LOOK) forward to coming home next month. See you soon.
Kate

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 many changes _____ (TAKE) place in my country these days, and, as a result, we _____ (LOSE) our identity. I _____ (LIVE) in a small town but even this town _____ (CHANGE) before my eyes. For example, town authorities _____ (BUILD) a burger place where my favourite restaurant used to be. Our culture _____ (BELONG) to everybody, and I _____ (NOT UNDERSTAND) why the town leaders _____ (NOT DO) to preserve it. They simply _____ (NOT CARE). In fact, I _____ (THINK) of starting an action group. I _____ (APPEAR) on a TV show on Friday evening to make people aware of how important this issue is. It's time for us to start doing something before it _____ (GET) too late.



TASK 4

Write sentences from the words in the given tense.

- He - be - an interesting man (past simple)
- I - arrive - at 11. (going-to future)
- I - not do - that - if - I - be - you (conditional 1 and past simple)
- Many people - wear - dark clothes - night (present simple)
- He - discuss - the topic - for the last two weeks (present perfect progressive)
- They - just finish - homework (present perfect simple)
- She - get up - now? (present progressive)
- Prime Minister - speak - on TV - but - he - ill (conditional 2 and past perfect simple)
- When - he - come back - workers - already clean - pavement (past simple and past perfect simple)
- What - you - do - yesterday evening? (past progressive)
- The boys - play - football - whole day (present perfect progressive)
- He - often - shop - Harrods. (present simple)
- If - I - see - lights - I - stop (past simple and conditional 1)
- He said - Mum - already - go out (past perfect simple)
- I - run into - Tom - yesterday (past simple)
- Next week - I - sit - on the beach (future progressive)
- The sales - start - next Monday (present progressive)
- When - I - enter - classroom - lesson - go on (past simple and progressive)
- Can - you - ski - when - you - be - little? (past simple)
- I - ski - when - I - be - at the university (past simple)
- How long - you - work - company? (present perfect progressive)
- She - sell - the ring (conditional 2)
- I - learn - type - now (present progressive)
- You - hear - from - him - lately? (present perfect simple)
- 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 1. '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
C 1. remembers 2. works 3. 'm working 4. 's snowing 5. are they talking

