

# TENSES

## DEFINITION

Tense is a form of verb that describes the relation between time and action. It gives time to the action.

There are three types of tenses :

- Past tense
- Present tense
- Future tense

## PAST TENSE

The **past tense** is used to describe or indicate an action that began in the past

- There are four forms of the past tense. They include:

- **simple past**

I worked.

- **past Continuous**

I was working.

- **past perfect**

I had worked.

- **past perfect continuous**

I had been working.

## **SIMPLE PAST**

### **DEFINITION**

The past indefinite tense, also known as simple past tense, is used to indicate a **finished or completed** action/task that occurred/happened at a **specific point in time** in the past.

## Rules

### Affirmative

Subject + V2 (past form of verb) + Object

Ex. I ate rice.

### Negative

Subject + did + not + V1 + Object.

Ex. I did not eat rice.

### Interrogative

Did + Subject+ V1 + Object+ ?

Ex. Did I go there?

## PAST CONTINUOUS

### DEFINITION

- The Past continuous tense is one used to describe actions that began in the past and continued for short period of time.

## Rules

## **Affirmative**

Subject + was / were + main verb+ ing + object

Ex. He was studying in the library.

## **Negative**

Subject + was / were + not + main verb+ ing + object

Ex. You were not studying in the library.

## **Interrogative**

Was / were + Subject + main verb+ ing + Object + ?

Was he studying in the library?

## **PAST PERFECT**

### **DEFINITION**

Past perfect tense is used for actions that were completed in the past before another action

took place for unfulfilled desires and impossible tasks.

## **Rules**

### **Affirmative**

Subject + had + V3 ( past participle form) + object

Ex. She had finished the test.

### **Negative**

Subject + had + not + V3 (past participle form) + Object

Ex. She had not finished the test.

### **Interrogative**

Had\_+ she + V3 (past participle form) + Object  
?

Ex. Had she finished the test ?

## **PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

### **DEFINITION**

Past perfect continuous tense is used to express the actions that began at a certain point in the past and continued up to that time.

- **Rules**

- **Affirmative**

- Subject + had + been + main verb+ ing + object+ since/for + time

- Ex. He had been working on this since last month.

- **Negative**

- Subject\_+ had + not + been + main verb + ing + object + since/ for + time.

- Ex. I had not been watching the cricket match on television for two hours.

- **Interrogative**

Had\_+ Subject + been + main Verb + ing + object  
+ ?

Ex. Had you been doing any work during the  
last two hours?