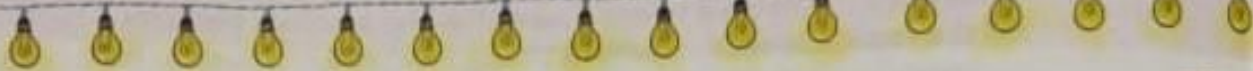


Note: Try and do the textbook exercise on your own. Answers will be shared later.

14. Simple Tenses: Present, Past and Future



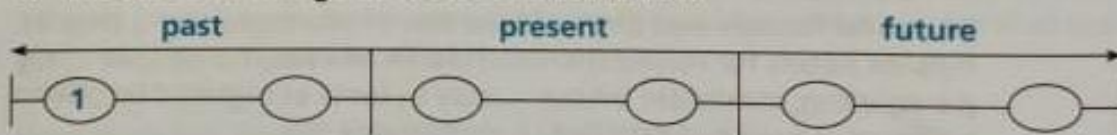
LEARN

Read these sentences and do as directed.

- If some action has taken place before now, put the number of that sentence in the space under **past**.
- If some action is happening at the present moment or happens every day, put the number of that sentence in the space under **present**.
- If some action will happen later, put the number of that sentence in the space under **future**.

One has been done for you.

1. We went to a Chinese restaurant last night.
2. I play football every day.
3. We played football last Sunday.
4. The cat will drink up all the milk.
5. Kavita practises the sitar every day.
6. The students will go to Mussoorie tomorrow.



Things happen around us all the time. Some things are happening now, some happened before now and some will happen later. We use verb tenses to express time—present, past and future.

For actions that are happening now, we use the **present tense** of the verb. For actions that happened before now, we use the **past tense**. And for actions that will happen later, we use the **future tense**.

Most often, we can tell the time of action by looking at the verb ending.

We further divide the tenses into simple, continuous and perfect tenses. In this chapter, we will study about simple tenses—simple present, simple past and simple future.

Simple Present Tense

We use the simple present tense to speak about—

- ◆ actions that are done as a habit or routine. For example,
 - Ankit **goes** to the gym every day.
 - I **drink** a glass of milk every morning.
- ◆ universal truths. For example,
 - The earth **revolves** around the sun.
 - The moon **moves** around the earth.
- ◆ statements that are always true. For example,
 - Cows **moo**.
 - Bees **sting**.
- ◆ events, actions and situations without any time reference. For example,
 - Mahesh **lives** in Kamla Nagar.
 - I **love** walnut muffins.
- ◆ future events. For example,
 - The train **leaves** at 2 p.m.
 - School **reopens** in July.

We often use time expressions like **always**, **every day**, **never**, **usually**, **sometimes**, **generally**, **often** with the simple present tense.

In the simple present tense, verbs usually take an **-e** or an **-es** ending when used with the pronouns **he**, **she** and **it**.

PRACTISE



A. Fill in the blanks with the simple present tense of the words given in the brackets.

1. Payal and Sujata _____ singing lessons every day. (take)
2. Maitri _____ French. (speak)
3. You _____ happy today. (look)
4. My parents _____ in Mumbai. (live)

5. The earth _____ on its axis. (*rotate*)
6. She always _____ her wallet. (*forget*)
7. I _____ reading adventure stories. (*love*)
8. He _____ some money. (*want*)
9. Mona never _____ up early. (*get*)
10. These shops _____ at 10 p.m. (*close*)
11. Mayank _____ tennis every Saturday. (*play*)
12. Anushka is a teacher. She _____ German. (*teach*)
13. Trees _____ us fruits and vegetables. (*give*)
14. Please answer the phone when it _____. (*ring*)
15. My grandparents _____ me every Sunday. (*visit*)



LEARN

Simple Past Tense

We use the simple past tense to speak about—

- ◆ actions that started and finished at a specific time in the past. For example,
 - He **washed** his car yesterday.
 - We **went** for a walk at 10 p.m. last night.
- ◆ a past habit, or to describe events that happened over a period of time in the past, but do not happen now. For example,
 - Anurag **played** football when he was young.
 - Sara **lived** in New York for seven years.
- ◆ events, actions and situations that happened a very long time ago. For example,
 - India **achieved** independence in 1947.
 - Vasco da Gama **arrived** in Calicut in 1498.
- ◆ actions that were completed recently. For example,
 - Jai just **called**.
 - Tanisha **left** a moment ago.

Most verbs usually take a **-d** or an **-ed** when used in the simple past tense. However, some verbs change completely when they are used in the past tense. Such verbs are called **irregular verbs**.

PRACTISE



B. Fill in the blanks with the simple past tense of the verbs given in the brackets.



1. She _____ her car. (wash)
2. I _____ a documentary on butterflies yesterday. (watch)
3. Last year, I _____ to Spain. (go)
4. The girl _____ beautifully. (sing)
5. I _____ bread to the ducks. (feed)
6. I _____ French when I was a child. (study)
7. We _____ for Prateek for an hour. (wait)
8. They never _____ to each other. (speak)
9. The mechanic _____ the car. (repair)
10. I _____ the mix into the pan. (pour)
11. They _____ to Shimla from Delhi. (drive)
12. I _____ to Jaipur three years ago. (come)
13. Mithun _____ the fence yesterday. (mend)
14. The two girls _____ for an hour on the phone. (talk)
15. The audience _____ a lot of money for the show. (pay)

LEARN

Simple Future Tense

We use the simple future tense—

- ♦ to say that some action will happen in the future. For example,
 - He **will play** football tomorrow.
 - I **shall speak** to you in a minute.
- ♦ to predict events that will happen in the future. For example,
 - It **will rain** tomorrow.
 - India **will win** the match.



In the simple future tense, we use **will/shall + verb** with the pronouns **I** and **we**. However, nowadays, it is more common to use **I will** and **we will**. With **he, she, it** and **they**, we use the **will + verb** form.

♦ to speak about a plan or decision that is not planned at the moment of speaking. For example,

- Prashant **will go** to Lucknow next month.
- I **will join** the gym from next week.

We usually use **tomorrow, later today, in two minutes, in five hours, next month, next year, etc.**, when we want to express something in the simple future tense.

PRACTISE



C. Fill in the blanks with the simple future tense of the verbs given in the brackets.

1. It _____ tonight. (rain)
2. You _____ the work before I arrive. (finish)
3. You _____ him at the gym. (find)
4. I _____ a new dress tomorrow. (buy)
5. I _____ over the matter. (think)
6. They _____ their house red! (paint)
7. Jyoti _____ eighteen this year. (turn)
8. I _____ the door when you come. (open)
9. He _____ for work at 8 a.m. (leave)
10. I _____ the phone if it rings. (answer)
11. Mirza _____ his parents this weekend. (visit)
12. I _____ this book to the library tomorrow. (return)

CHALLENGE



D. Using the verbs from the box fill in the blanks with the correct tenses.

speak cry know learn visit leave attend injure
go eat watch listen write bake read

1. Jiya _____ to drive from next week.
(simple future)

2. Aakash _____ the room in a hurry. (simple past)
3. Martin _____ four languages. (simple present)
4. Our neighbour's baby _____ all night. (simple past)
5. Jay _____ television only after his homework is complete. (simple present)
6. Ravi _____ patiently to his mother. (simple past)
7. No one _____ the answer to that question. (simple present)
8. Gargi _____ us next month. (simple future)
9. Neel _____ on outings with his neighbour. (simple present)
10. Victor _____ his fingers while repairing the cooler. (simple past)
11. I _____ my cousin's wedding this weekend. (simple future)
12. I _____ a very heavy meal. (simple past)
13. Leela _____ an email to her aunt after lunch. (simple future)
14. I _____ this book last year. (simple past)
15. My mother _____ delicious cookies. (simple present)

RECAP

- We use verb tenses to express present, past and future time.
- For actions happening now, we use the **present tense**. For actions that happened before now, we use the **past tense**. For actions that will happen later, we use the **future tense**.