

**Tenses (Verb Forms)**

There are three main tenses:

1. Present Tense
2. Past Tense
3. Future Tense

**PRESENT TENSE****(a) Simple Present**

**Usage.** It is used:

- To talk about a present action
- To talk about a habitual action
- To talk about a universal truth.
- To talk about a permanent condition
- To talk about a scientific fact.
- To express proverbs

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Root form of verb, root form + 's' or 'es'

**(b) Present Continuous Tense**

**Usage.** It is used;

- To talk about an action that is going on at the time of speaking.
- For future time reference if we are sure of the action.

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	am+present participle are+present participle is+present participle

**(c) Present Perfect Tense**

**Usage.** It is used;

To talk about an action that has just been completed.

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Have+past participle Has+ past participle

**(d) Present Perfect Continuous Tense**

**Usage.** It is used;

To express an action that began in the past and has been in progress till the time of speaking.

To express an action that finished just a short while ago.

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Have been + present participle Has been+ present participle

**Use of 'since' and 'for'**

'since' is used to denote 'point of time'

'for' is used to denote 'period of time'

For example,

I have been living in Delhi for five years.

She has been living in Agra since birth.

**PAST TENSE****(a) Simple Past**

**Usage.** It is used:

To talk about a past action.

To talk about some past habit

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Second form of verb

**(b) Past Continuous Tense**

**Usage.** It is used

To talk about an action which was in progress at some point of time before the time of speaking

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Was +present participle Were + present participle

**(c) Past Perfect**

**Usage.** It is used

To talk about an action that was completed before a given moment in the past

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Had +past participle

**(d) Past Perfect Continuous**

**Usage.** It is used.

To talk about an action that began before a definite moment in the past, had continued up to that moment and was still in progress at that moment, or had recently finished

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Had been + present participle

**FUTURE TENSE**

**(a) Simple Future**

**Usage.** It is used;

To talk about an action that will take place in future

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Shall + root form of 'Verb' Will + root form of verb

**Note:** in modern English 'will' is used with 'I' and 'we', too.

**(b) Future Continuous**

**Usage.** It is used.

To express an action that is almost certain to take place in the future.

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Shall be + present participle Will be + present participle

**(c) Future Perfect**

**Usage.** It is used:

To talk about an action completed before a given moment in the future.

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Shall have+ past participle Will have + past participle

**Future Perfect Continuous Tense**

**Usage:** it is used.

To talk about an action that will begin before a definite moment in the future, will continue up to that moment and will be in progress even at that moment.

**Form**

Subject	Verb
I, You, We, They, He, she. It	Shall have been + present participle Will have been + present participle

**Solved**

**Example**

- 1. Fill in the blanks in the following passage by using the correct tense form of the verbs given in brackets, choosing the appropriate options from the given ones.**

Once Martin Luther King (a) ..... (address) a public meeting. Suddenly someone ( b).....(throw) a shoe at him. But king (c) ..... (not lose)

his cool. He (d) .....(pick) up the shoe and told the gathering that some kind gentleman, knowing that he could not afford shoes, (e).....(throw) one for him. He (f)..... (request) the gentleman to throw him the other one too. After he said so, a man appeared before him and apologized.

**Ans.** (a) was addressing (b) threw (c) did not lose (d) picked (e) had thrown (f) requested

**Questions for Practice:**

- 1. Fill in the blanks in the following passage by using the correct tense form of the verbs given in brackets.**

A diesel tanker (a) ..... (catch) fire last evening when it (b).....(fill) up the underground tank of a petrol station situated on the G.T. Road. Soon the fire from the tanker (c)..... (reach) the station's administrative block. Suddenly the driver of the tanker (d)..... (get) into it and (e)..... (drive) it 25 yards ahead of the station. A big tragedy (f)..... (avert) due to his brave act.

- 2. Fill in the blanks in the following passage by using the correct tense form of the verbs given in brackets.**

A forty-year old man (a).....(kill) and six others (b).....(injure) when the van in which they (c) .....(travel) overturned after colliding with a truck last evening. Soon after the incident a huge crowd (d).....(gather) on the spot and (e) ..... (start) beating the driver as he (f).....(find) to be under the influence of alcohol. The police arrived on the scene and arrested the driver.