



**CLASS IX-X**  
**ENGLISH GRAMMAR**  
**PART II**  
**CHAPTER 4**  
**THE USE OF TENSES**

**NOTES**

The different **Tense Forms** of English verbs are used to express different meanings. Let us learn how the different Tense Forms are used.

**The Simple Present Tense:**

The Simple Present Tense is used to express an action which is repeated and becomes a habit.

**Example:** He goes for a walk every morning.

The Simple Present Tense also expresses a present or existing state of affairs.

**Example:** She works as teacher in the school.

The Simple Present Tense is also used to express a Timeless Present or a Universal Truth.

**Example:** The sun rises in the east.

The Simple Present Tense also expresses an action in the future.

**Example:** She leaves for Mumbai tomorrow.

**The Present Continuous Tense:**

The Present Continuous Tense is used to express an action in progress at the time of speaking.

**Example:** The boys are playing.

The Present Continuous Tense is used to express some action of the future. It is more frequently used than the Simple Present. It is also commonly used in colloquial usage.

**Example:** She is leaving for abroad the next day.

There are certain verbs which are not used in the Continuous form. In their place the Simple Form is used.

These are verbs expressing a 'feeling' or 'emotion' or verbs of 'knowing', 'thinking' etc. Such verbs are also called **Stative Verbs**. Some of them are:

**Admire, appear, believe, consist, contain, dislike, expect, forget, hate, fear, imagine, know, like, love, realize, remember, see, smell, taste, think, want, wish etc.**



**Example:** We don't say –I am wanting a pen.  
But we say –I want a pen.

However, the verbs mentioned above are used in some special cases.

**Example:** I am thinking about a problem of Mathematics.

### The Present Perfect Tense:

The Present Perfect expresses an action just completed.

**Example:** He has finished the work just now.

It is often used with 'before' when 'before' means 'sometime in the Past'.

**Example:** I have seen the film before.

Sometimes, it expresses an experience which the speaker has had.

**Example:** I have seen many a girl doing quite well.

Sometimes it indicates the future, especially when it is a subordinate clause.

**Example:** I shall come there when I have finished my work.

The Present Perfect also expresses a habit when it is used with 'when', 'before' or 'after'.

**Example:** Do you always pray when you have got up from the bed?

The Present Perfect also expresses an action which began in the Past and which continues till the Present. In such cases, the word 'since' or 'for' is always used.

**Example:** She has been ill for a month.

### The Present Perfect Continuous Tense:

The tense refers to an action which began at sometimes in the past and is still going on. The focus is on the action in progress as well as its duration.

**Example:** I have been living in Imphal for forty years.

### The Simple Past Tense:

The Simple Past Tense is used to express an action of a past time. This is the most common use of the Simple Past. The past time is denoted by an adverb like yesterday, last night, etc. in addition to the past tense form of the verb.

**Example:** We went for a picnic yesterday.



The Simple Past Tense is also used to express a habitual action in the past.

**Example:** He always carried an umbrella with him.

In narration and story-telling, the Simple Past is often used.

**Example:** Khamba went in search of the tiger. Nongban followed him everywhere.

In special circumstances, the Simple Past can be used to refer to the Present.

**Example:** Did you want to speak to me? (To mean, do you want to speak to me?)

### **The Past Continuous Tense:**

The Past Continuous Tense is used for past actions which continued for some time.

**Example:** I was reading a newspaper in the morning.

Sometimes, the Past Continuous Tense is used without a time expression.

**Example:** The water level was rising.

Very often the Past Continuous Tense is used in combination with the Simple Past to show that an action was continuing at a time when another action continued.

**Example:** We were reading when he came in.

### **The Past Perfect Tense:**

The Past Perfect Tense is used to refer to the earlier of two actions in the past.

**Example:** The bus had left before we reached the station.

The Past Perfect Tense can be used for an action which stopped before the time of speaking.

**Example:** He had written the book ten years ago.

The Past Perfect Tense is used to express an unfulfilled wish relating to the past.

**Example:** I wish I had listened to you.

### **The Past Perfect Continuous Tense:**

The tense is used for an action that began before a certain point in the past and was still going on.

**Example:** I had been reading a novel for an hour when you called me.

**The Future:** English verbs do not have a distinct form of the Future Tense but there are different ways of expressing the Future Time.

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