

6-Tenses

There are eight types of tense:

6-1-Present Simple Tense

It is a tense describes an event which is permanent ,complete, habitual or repeated action or fact.

Pattern:

S+V{S 3rd pers sing or without S for sing *I* and *you* and plural *we* , *they* }+COM+Adv

Adv{every, usually ,always ,often, frequently, sometimes and normally}.

It is used to describe the following:

6-1-1-**Habit**:An action that happens again and again.

Example:

(a)-She drinks ten cups of coffee a day.

6-1-2-Fact

Examples:

(a)-The earth moves around the sun.

(b)-Some birds fly south in Winter.

6-1-3-**State**:verbs which describe state and not action.

-State verbs generally fall into four kinds:

6-1-3-1-**Emotion**:Love,hate,like,dislike,care,hope,wish.

6-1-3-2-**Possession**:Have,own,belong.

6-1-3-3-**Senses**:See,hear,smell,taste,feel.

6-1-3-4-**Thought**: Know, believe, remember , agree,

mean,think ,doubt, imagine ,understand ,realize ,suppose,
deserve, expect ,forget, prefer.

6-2-Present Continuous Tense

It is a tense which describes an event which is temporary ,incomplete or in progress.

Pattern:

S+Aux{is(Sing) or are(Plural)}+V+ing+Adv{now,at the moment, today,at the present}

Example:

-I am watching TV now.

State verbs which are explained previously are not used in the present continuous tense ,but in the present simple tense.

Example:

-The child loves his mother(Correct).

-The child is loving his mother(Incorrect).

Exception:

Some of **state verbs** are used in present continuous tense, but with the change of meaning:

(a)-I think you are right(opinion).

-We are thinking of going to the cinema (mental activity).

(b)The soup tastes awful(state).

-I am tasting the soup to see if it needs salt(activity).

Difference:

(a)-Zeki usually plays football(habit).

(b)-Zeki is playing football(now).

Exercise 8

Put the verbs in brackets in the correct simple and simple continuous tenses:

1-Stars(shine)at night.

2-I(know)what he means.

3-I(study)English now.

4-Look!it(rain)hard outside.

5-Taher always (sleep)with his windows open.

6-3-Past Simple Tense

It is a tense used to express an event that happened in the past.

Pattern

S+V+ ed+ Adv(yesterday ,ago ,last, in the past).

Examples:

(a)-I went to a museum yesterday.

(b)-I played piano well.

Past Simple Tense is used to express:

6-3-1-A finished action in the past.

Example:

-We met in 2000.

6-3-2-Actions that follow each other.

Example:

-Mary walked into the room and stopped .She listened carefully.

6-3-3-Past situation or habit.

Examples:

(a)-When I was a child, we lived in a small house by the sea.

(b)-Every day I walked for miles on the beach.

6-4-Past Continuous Tense

It is a tense used to express an action that was going on during a certain time in the past.

Pattern:

S+was or were+v+ing

Example:

It was raining when I woke up this morning.

-This tense is used to describe the following:

6-4-1-Activities in progress before and after a particular time in the past.

Example:

-At 7 o'clock this morning I was having my breakfast.

6-4-2-Description

Example:

-Huda looked beautiful .She was wearing jeans.

6-4-3-Interrupted past activity .

Example:

-While we were playing tennis ,It started to rain.

6-4-4-Incomplete activity:

Example

-I was reading a book during the flight(I did not finish it).

Difference:

-I was watching film during the flight(I did not finish it).

-I watched film during the flight(the whole film).

Exercise 9

Put the verbs in brackets in the correct past and past continuous tenses:

1-While I (read)the paper ,the door bell rang.

2-Two weeks ago Ali (be) in Baghdad.

3-Tom and Mary(not be)at the party last night.

4-At 8 o'clock this evening I (read) a book.

5-Look!Smoke(come)out of the building.