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Verb Tenses



The Present Tense

Simple Present and Progressive Present

The simple present includes events that are happening at the time of speaking as well as events that go on all the time.

Simple: He **lives** in Toronto.

Progressive: He **is living** in Toronto.

Present Perfect Progressive

This verb tense indicates action that is going on at present but started in the past.

Example: He **has been living** in Toronto.

Note: The present perfect tense uses auxiliary (helper) words "has been".

Exercise A

Change the verb in each sentence to the tense required in parentheses.

1. Paula walks to school instead of taking the bus. (Progressive present)

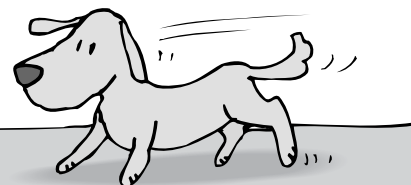
2. I had a new bicycle. (Simple present)

3. She is walking her dog in the park. (Present perfect progressive)

4. We were swimming in the lake. (Present perfect progressive)

5. My friends and I planned to have a party. (Progressive present)

6. My dog will chase the ball. (Present perfect progressive)





The Past Tense

Simple Past

The simple past refers to events that took place in the past. These events have been completed and do not extend to the present.

Example: The team **won** the final game.

Past Progressive

This tense indicates actions that were continuing or actions that occurred in the past but with limitations.

Example: The team **was winning** the game the last time we checked the score.

Past Perfect

This tense indicates past action that was completed by a certain time in the past or before another past action occurred.

Example: The team **had won** the game by the time we checked the score.

Past Perfect Progressive

This tense indicates continuing action in the past that began before a certain time, or before another action in the past occurred.

Example: The team **had been winning** the game until the other team scored a goal.

Exercise B

In each of the following sentences, change the verb in parentheses to the tense indicated.



- Children _____ (play) on the swings there. (Past progressive)
- The sun _____ (shine) on the flowers. (Simple past)
- The news _____ (arrive) by Internet transmission. (Past perfect progressive)
- Many people _____ (watch) the World Cup. (Past perfect)
- His cousin _____ (visit) them in January. (Past perfect progressive)
- He _____ (help) his father cut the grass. (Simple past)
- The students _____ (do) their homework together. (Past perfect)
- The phone rang when we _____ (have) dinner. (Past progressive)
- No one _____ (try) that before. (Past perfect)

