

What does TENSE Mean?

A **tense** is a form of a [verb](#) which shows **the time at which an action happens**.

It comes from the Latin word "tempus", which means "time".

✓ Simple English Tenses.

Simple tense is a form of a verb that simply shows **when** the action takes place.

- **Simple Past** is a form of the verb that shows the action took place **in the past**.

For example: Lisa danced yesterday.

- **Simple Present** is a form of the verb that shows the action takes place **in the present**.

For example: Lisa dances every day.

- **Simple Future** is a form of the verb that shows the action will take place **in the future**.

For example: Lisa will dance tomorrow.

✓ Progressive (Continuous) Tenses

PROGRESSIVE means "continuing".

Progressive tense is a form of a verb that shows the action is **in progress**. Or in other words, that it continues.

- **Past Progressive** is a form of the verb that shows the action **was in progress** at some time in the past.

For example: Lisa was dancing yesterday at 8 o'clock.

- **Present Progressive** is a form of the verb that shows the action is **in progress in the present**.

For example: Lisa is dancing right now.

- **Future Progressive** is a form of the verb that shows the action **will be in progress** at some time in the future.

For example: Lisa will be dancing tomorrow at 8 o'clock.

✓ Perfect Tenses

PERFECT means "complete, finished".

Perfect tense is a form of a verb that shows the action **is completed**. It does not mean the action is "perfect" (100%). It means the action is **finished**.

- **Past Perfect** is a form of the verb that shows the action **was completed** before sometime in the past.

For example: Lisa had danced before she came.

- **Present Perfect** is a form of the verb that shows the action was completed before the present.

For example: Lisa has already danced.

- **Future Perfect** is a form of the verb that shows the action will be complete before sometime in the future.

For example: Lisa will have danced tomorrow by 9 o'clock.

✓ Perfect + Progressive? !

Yes! There are 3 more tenses. These are the Perfect Progressive (Continuous) tenses.

Perfect Progressive tense is a form of the verb that shows the **action started**, **continued**, and **was completed** until some point.

- **Past Perfect Progressive** is a form of the verb that shows the **action started in the past** and **continued** until some point in the past.

For example: Lisa had been dancing for 2 hours before she was tired.

- **Present Perfect Progressive** is a form of the verb that shows the **action started in the past** and **continued** until the present.

For example: Lisa has been dancing for 3 hours without stopping!

- **Future Perfect Progressive** is a form of the verb that shows the **action will continue** until some point in the future.

For example: By tomorrow morning, Lisa will have been dancing for 12 hours!