

Tense

Level One English

Verbs come in three tenses: past, present, and future.

The present tense is used to describe things that are happening right now, or things that are continuous.

The past is used to describe things that have already happened (e.g., earlier in the day, yesterday, last week, three years ago).

The future tense describes things that have yet to happen (e.g., later, tomorrow, next week, next year, three years from now).

Simple Tenses

1 | Present

I read nearly every
day.

2 | Past

Last night, I read an
entire novel.

3 | Future

I will read as much as I
can this year.

Continuous Tenses

1 | Present

I am reading
Shakespeare at the
moment.

2 | Past

I was reading Edgar
Allan Poe last night.

3 | Future

I will be reading
Nathaniel Hawthorne
soon.

Perfect Tenses

1 | Present

I have read so many books I can't keep count.

2 | Past

I had read at least 100 books by the time I was twelve.

3 | Future

I will have read at least 500 books by the end of the year.

Overview

Simple Present

I read nearly every day.

Present Continuous

I am reading Shakespeare at the moment.

Present Perfect

I have read so many books I can't keep count.

Simple Past

Last night, *I read* an entire novel.

Past Continuous

I was reading Edgar Allan Poe last night.

Past Perfect

I had read at least 100 books by the time I was twelve.

Simple Future

I will read as much as I can this year.

Future Continuous

I will be reading Nathaniel Hawthorne soon.

Future Perfect

I will have read at least 500 books by the end of the year.

Which Tense is This?

The speaker of the House will finish her term in May of 1998.

The sociologist is examining the effects that racial discrimination has on society.

Ernest Hemmingway wrote "The Old Man and the Sea."

The mountains are tall and white.

Women have voted in presidential elections since 1921.

Dr. Jones will be presenting ongoing research on sexist language next week.

Before lockdown, the students had been participating in many extracurricular activities.

Task:

Make a list of everything you do in the morning to get ready for school. Make sure it is in chronological order.



Task:

Write down your morning routine in the present tense.

It's happening NOW!

Next:

Make a copy of what you have written and paste it underneath. Now change the tense to the past.

It has ALREADY happened!

Finally:

Make a copy of what you have written and paste it underneath. Now change the tense to the future.

It WILL happen!
