

Tenses




English - Tenses (Grade 1)

Tense tells the time of an action: now, before now, or after now. We focus on **Simple Present, Present Continuous, Simple Past**, and **Simple Future**. We also use **am / is / are** and **was / were** correctly.

Quick Links:

Time Clues Simple Present Present Continuous Simple Past am / is / are / was / were Simple Future Common Mistakes MCQ Achievers

Spot the Time Clues

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| always, every day |  | now: now, today, |
| past: yesterday, last night, ago |  | |
| week, later |  | future: tomorrow, next |

Simple Present (habits, facts)

| Form | Examples |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| I / we / you / they + verb | I play. They read. We walk to school. |
| he / she / it / singular noun + verb + s or es | He plays. She washes. The dog barks. |

Clue words: always, usually, every day, on Sundays.

Present Continuous (happening now)

| Form | Examples |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| I am + verb + ing | I am reading now. |
| he / she / it is + verb + ing | She is running. |
| we / you / they are + verb + ing | They are cooking. |

Clue words: now, right now, at the moment, today (if action is going on now).

Simple Past (finished before now)

| Form | Examples |
|------------------------|---|
| verb + ed (most verbs) | We played yesterday. I visited my aunt. |
| irregular verbs | go -> went, eat -> ate, see -> saw, come -> came. |

Clue words: yesterday, last night, last week, ago.

am / is / are and was / were

Present forms

- I **am** happy.
- He / she / it **is** tall.
- We / you / they **are** ready.

Past forms

- I / he / she / it **was** late.
- We / you / they **were** early.

Simple Future (after now)

| Form | Examples |
|-------------|--|
| will + verb | We will visit tomorrow. The train will arrive at 6 in the evening. |

Clue words: tomorrow, next week, later, this evening (if it has not started yet).

Common Mistakes

- Using **is** with I. Correct: *I am*, not *I is*.
- For he / she / it in simple present, add **s** or **es**: *She reads*, not *She read* (habit).
- Do not use **was** with plural subjects. Use **were**: *They were*.
- Use **because** to show reason and choose tense to match the time clue: *I ate slowly because the soup was hot*.
- For actions happening now, use **am/is/are + ing**, not simple present: *I am eating now*, not *I eat now*.

MCQ Achievers (5 tougher items)

- The museum opens at 9 every day, but today it _____ at 10.**
 - A. opens
 - B. is opening
 - C. opened
 - D. will open
- Lata usually walks to school, but it rained, _____ she took the bus.**
 - A. so
 - B. and
 - C. is
 - D. were
- "Aarav paints very well." Identify the tense.**
 - A. Simple past
 - B. Present continuous
 - C. Simple present
 - D. Simple future
- Choose the correct pair: I _____ tired now; yesterday I _____ fine.**
 - A. am, am
 - B. am, was
 - C. is, was
 - D. are, were
- The train timetable says 6:00 p.m. We _____ at 6 even if we start late.**

- A. will reach
- B. reach
- C. reached
- D. are reaching

▶ Show Answers

Practice reading the time clues before choosing the tense.