

TENSES : INTRODUCTION

A verb that refers to present time is said to be in the **Present Tense** ; as ,

I write

I love

A verb that refers to past time is said to be in the **Past Tense** ; as ,

I wrote

I loved

A verb that refers to future time is said to be in the **Future Tense** ; as ,

I shall write

I shall love

Thus there are three main **Tenses**

The **Present**, the **Past**, the **Future**.

The Tense of a verb shows the **time** of an action or event.

Thus a verb may refer (1) to **present time**, (2) to **past time**, (3) to **future time**.

Example :

- (1) I **write** this letter to please you.
- (2) I **wrote** the letter in his very presence.
- (3) I **shall write** another letter tomorrow.

In sentence 1, the verb **write** refers to **present time**. In sentence 2, the verb **wrote** refers to **past time**. In sentence 3, the verb **shall write** refers to **future time**.

The word tense comes from the

Latin word **tempus**, time.

DATE / /

VERB FORMS OF VARIOUS TENSES : PRESENT TENSE

Simple Present Tense	Present Continuous Tense
I speak	I am speaking
You speak	You are speaking
He speaks	He is speaking.
We speak	We are speaking
They speak	They are speaking

Present Perfect Tense	Present Perfect Continuous Tense
I have spoken	I have been speaking
You have spoken	You have been speaking
He has spoken	He has been speaking
We have spoken	We have been speaking
They have spoken	They have been speaking

DATE / /

VERB FORMS OF FUTURE TENSE

Simple Future Tense	Future Continuous Tense
I shall/will speak	I shall/will be speaking
You will speak	You will be speaking
He will speak	He will be speaking
We shall/will speak.	We shall/will be speaking
They will speak	They will be speaking
Future Perfect Tense	Future Perfect Continuous Tense
I shall/will have spoken.	I shall/will have been speaking.
You will have spoken	You will have been speaking.



Future Perfect
Tense

He will have
spoken

We shall/will
have spoken

They will have
spoken

Future Perfect
Continuous Tense

He will have been
speaking

He shall/will have
been speaking

They will have been
speaking

THE ADJECTIVE

An adjective is a word that qualifies or adds something to the meaning of a noun.

Read and examine the following sentences :

- (1) Sita is a **clever** girl. (Girl of what kind?)
- (2) I don't like **that** boy. (Which boy?)
- (3) He gave me **five** mangoes. (How many mangoes?)
- (4) There is **little** time for preparation. (How much time?)

EXPLANATION : After reading and examining sentence 1, 2, 3 and 4 we

can make out that a word used with a noun to **describe or point out**, the person, animal, place or thing which the noun names, or to tell the **number or quantity**, is called an **Adjective**.

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT ADJECTIVES AND THEIR USES

Adjectives can be used in two ways - **Attributively** and **Predicatively**.
When an adjective is placed just before the Noun, its use is **attributive**, but when it is used after the noun or pronoun, the use is called **predicative**.



Examples :

(1) This is a **sweet** mango.

(Attributive)

(2) This mango is **sweet**. (Predicative)

(3) Fame is the perfume of **heroic** deeds. (Attributive)

(4) The judge declared him **guilty**.
S is guilty

EXPLANATION : In sentence (1) and

(3), the adjectives **sweet** and **heroic** have been used before **mango** and **deeds**. Thus the use is 'Attributive'.

In sentences (2) and (4), the adjectives **sweet** and **guilty** have been used after **mango** and **him**. So, their use is 'Predicative'.

Adjectives have three degrees of comparison :

(A) **Positive Degree** : It expresses the common form of an adjective.

example : **Ram is a tall boy.**

(B) **Comparative Degree** : It expresses the more of the same form.

example : **Ram is taller than Rajesh.**

(C) **Superlative Degree** : It expresses the most of the common form of an adjective.

example : **Ram is the tallest boy in the class.**

KINDS OF ADJECTIVES

Adjectives may be divided into the following classes :

DATE: / /

(A) **Adjectives of Quality (or Descriptive Adjective)** show the **kind** or

quality of a person or thing; as,

- (i) Rajesh is an **honest** man.
- (ii) Priyanka is a **sweet** girl.
- (iii) The **big** elephant plunged into the forest → _____
- (iv) Gurugram is a **large** city.

Adjectives of Quality answer the question: **of what kind?**

(B) **Adjectives of Quantity** show **how much** of a thing is meant; as,

- (i) He has **little** intelligence.
- (ii) He gave me **some** apples.
- (iii) He showed **much** patience.
- (iv) The **whole** sum was expended.

DATE _____ / _____ / _____

(i) **Definite Numeral Adjectives**, which denote an **exact** number ; as,

Cardinals - One, two, three, etc.

Ordinals - First, second, third, etc.

A cardinal denotes **how many**, and an ordinal the **order** of things in a series.

(ii) **Indefinite Numeral Adjectives**, which do **not** denote an exact number ; as, **all, no ; many, few ; some, any ; certain, several, sundry**.

(iii) **Distributive Numeral Adjectives**, which refer to **each one of a** number ; as,

(i) **Each** girl must take his turn.

(ii) **Neither** accusation is true.

Chief Tenses (Active Voice, Indicative Mood) of the verb to love.

PRESENT TENSE

	Singular Number	Plural Number
1st Person	I love	We love
2nd Person	You love	You love
3rd Person	He loves	They love

PAST TENSE

	Singular Number	Plural Number
1st Person	I loved	We loved
2nd Person	You loved	You loved
3rd Person	He loved	They loved

FUTURE TENSE

	Singular Number	Plural Number
1st Person	I shall / will love	We shall / will love



DATE / /

(D) Demonstrative Adjectives point

out which person or thing is meant ; as,

- (i) This boy is stronger than Hari
- (ii) These grapes are sour.
- (iii) That girl is very beautiful.
- (iv) I don't like such things.

Demonstrative Adjectives answer the question : Which ?

(This and that are used with singular nouns and these and those with plural nouns.

(E) Interrogative Adjectives refer to

what, which and whose, when they are used with nouns to ask questions.

- (i) **Which** way shall we go ?
- (ii) **Which** colour chart do you prefer?
- (iii) **Whose** book is this ?
- (iv) **What** time is it ?

(What is used in a general sense and which in a selective sense.)

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(F) **Emphasizing Adjectives** refer to the use of words **own** and **very** as shown in the given sentences.

- (i) I saw it with my **own** eyes.
- (ii) Mind your **own** business.
- (iii) That is the **very** thing we want.
- (iv) He was beaten at his **own** game.

(G) **Exclamatory Adjective** refer to the use of the word **what** which is sometimes used as an adjective, e.g.,

- (i) **What** an idea !
- (ii) **What** a blessing !
- (iii) **What** a genius !
- (iv) **What** a piece of work is man !

Note : **This** and **that** are the only adjectives which are changed in form to show numbers.

- (i) **This** boy sings .
- These** boys sing .
- (ii) **That** boy plays cricket .
- Those** boys play cricket .

This, these indicate something near to the speaker.

That, those indicate more distant objects.

	Singular Number	Plural Number
2nd Person	You will love	You will love
3rd Person	He will love	They will love

FORMS OF TENSES

(1) PRESENT TENSE

- (1) I love. (Simple Present)
- (2) I am loving. (Present Continuous)
- (3) I have loved. (Present Perfect)
- (4) I have been loving (Present Perfect Continuous).

EXPLANATION: The verbs in all of these sentences refer to the present time, and are therefore said to be in the present tense. In sentence 1, the verb shows that the action is

as mentioned simply, without anything

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PAST TENSE

	Singular Number	Plural Number
1st Person	I loved	We loved
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FUTURE TENSE

	Singular Number	Plural Number
1st Person	I shall / will love	We shall / will love



	Singular Number	Plural Number
2nd Person	You will love	You will love
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EXPLANATION: The verbs in all of these sentences refer to the present time, and are therefore said to be in the present tense. In sentence 1, the verb shows that the action is

mentioned simply, without anything

being said about the completeness or incompleteness of the action. In sentence 2, the verb shows that the action is mentioned as **incomplete or continuous**. In sentence 3, the verb shows that the action is mentioned as **finished, complete or perfect**, at the time of speaking. In sentence 4, the verb shows that the action is **going on continuously, and not completed** at this present moment. The Tense of a verb shows not only the **time of an action or event**, but also the **state of an action** referred to.

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(2) PAST TENSE

- (1) I loved. (Simple past)
- (2) I was loving. (Past Continuous)
- (3) I had loved. (Past Perfect)
- (4) I had been loving. (Past Perfect Continuous)

(3) FUTURE TENSE

- (1) I shall / will love. (Simple Future)
- (2) I shall / will be loving. (Future Continuous)
- (3) I shall / will have loved. (Future Perfect)
- (4) I shall have been loving. (Future Perfect Continuous)

Just as the Present Tense has four forms, the Past Tense and Future Tense have four forms similarly.