

14. THE USES OF TH TENSES

I. The Simple Present Tense is used:

1. To express something in a general way or repeated way or habitual way.

I do exercise daily.

He takes coffee often.

Usually he comes here.

2. To express universal or scientific truths.

Heat **expands** metals.

Water *flows* down.

Ice is cold.

Man is mortal.

God **is** immortal.

Mosquitoes cause malaria.

Five and five **make** ten.

3. To express something that happens now; at the time of talking

I **write** a letter.

Look, our team *plays* well.

He waits for you.

She **sings** well.

Here comes your friend.

4. To express Proverbs.

- 1. Every cloud has a silver lining.
- 2. Too many cooks spoil the soup.
- 3. A rolling stone gathers no moss.

- A bad workman blames the tools.
- 5. Many hands make the work light.

5. To express past events in the Head Lines of News Papers.

- 1. The Prime Minister resigns. (he resigned already)
- 2. The bomb blast kills many people. (= many people were killed)
- 3. The former C.M. passes away. (= passed away died)
- 4. The Supreme Court **bans** child labour. (= banned)
- 5. India *tests* nuclear bomb. (= tested)

6. The following expressions take Simple present tense.

always, usually, often, everyday, sometimes.

- 1. He works hard always.
- 2. Often it rains here.
- 3. Everyday he takes coffee.
- 4. **Sometimes** we **play** cricket.
- 5. *Usually* he *comes* here in the morning.

II. Continuous Present is used:

1. To express an action that is going on happening at the time of talking.

He is reading. (= now he is reading)

I am watching television. (= now I am watching)

I am staying with my uncle. (= now I am staying; it is only for a short period

2. The following words are not used in continuous tenses.

admire, appreciate, care for, love, hate, like, dislike, understand, know, wish, fear, mind, respect, want, desire, value.

1. He is not understanding me. \times

He does not understand me. ✓

2. Are you understanding my class? ×

Do you understand my class? 🗸

- 3. Lam not knowing his address. X
 - l do not know his address. 🗸
- 4. He is hating me. X

He hates me. ✓

5. My mother is loving me so much. \times

My mother loves me so much. \checkmark

III. Present Perfect Tense is used:

1. To talk about the present result of a past action. That means, we $m{l}_{0_0}$ back from the present to the past. It is the present tense which strongly connected with the past.

eg. Ann has not eaten any bread. (= the bread is now on the table)

He has gone home. (= now he is not here)

They have not arrived. (= now they are not here)

2. To express that something has completed just now, at the time of talking

eg. It has just started to rain.

She **has just gone** out.

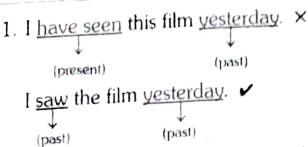
- 3. To express something that began in the past and has continued upto the present. We use **for** and **since** for this expression.
 - eg. I **have known** him **for** 5 years.

She has not visited us since Christmas.

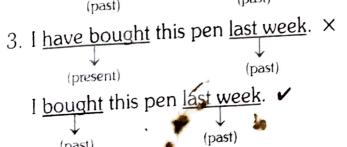
It has rained here for two days.

We have lived here since 1990.

- 4. Present Perfect and Simple Past speak about completed actions But their usage and meanings are totally different.
 - 1. Present Perfect tense talks about completed actions now, today
 - 2. Simple past refers to completed actions not now but sometime back or ago. It is used with the expressions yesterday, last year, ago etc.



2. Jim has repaired my bike yesterday. X (past) (present) Jim repaired my bike yesterday. 🗸 (past)



4. We have done the work long ago. X (past) We <u>did</u> the work <u>long ago</u>.

(past) Present Perfect Continuous tense is used:

- 1. To express the continuation of the activity which began in the past. The action started in the past but still continuing in the present.
 - eg. 1. He has been speaking for an hour.
 - (= He started speaking in the past and now also he is speaking)
 - 2. She has been dancing since morning.
 - (= She started dancing in the morning and now also she is dancing)
 - 3. Our team has been playing since 4 o'clock.
 - (= Our team started playing at 4 o'clock and now also they are playing)

69

Remember this:

1. Our team is playing **for** two hours. \times Our team has been playing for two hours. V

- 2. I **am suffering** from fever since Monday. × I **have been suffering** from fever since Monday. ✓
- 3. It **is raining** since morning. ×
 It **has been raining** since morning. ✓

V. Simple Past:

Simple Past is used to express an action or situation that happened at a particular point in the past.

- eg. 1. He sent me a letter last week. Subt v, + dbj
 - 2. She helped me in my studies.
 - 3. We saw a film last night.

(Refer Present Perfect Tense)

VI. Past Continuous Tense is used:

To talk about what was happening at a particular past moment. Often we use simple past and continuous past together,

eg. 1. When he <u>came</u>, <u>I was writing</u> a letter. Sub + v2 + I/c7 + was continuous past)

2. My mother was cooking when the phone rang.

(continuous past) (simple past)

VII. Past Perfect Tense is used:

- 1. To express **long past** situations
 - eg. 1. We **had gone** to Delhi last year.
 - 2. The Prime Minister had visited this town two years ago.
- 2. It is used to express that something had happened before another action took place. In such situations, the first action must be written with had + past participle and the second action with simple past.
 - eg. 1. The train had left when we reached the station.
 - 2. The thief had broken the door when we woke up.

 (1st action)

Past Perfect Continuous Tense is used:

To talk about a situation or an activity that had been happening in the past hefore another past action took place.

- eg. 1. She had been dancing when I met her. Sub the d/here sheen + 19+ def (= I met her sometime back, but before that she was going on dancing without anystop.)
 - 2. Somebody had been shouting at him, when I went there.
 - (= I went there sometime back. At that time somebody was going on shouting at him.)

Simple Future Tense is used:

To express an action which is going to take place:

- eg. 1. I shall meet you soon.
 - 2. They will come soon.
 - 3. I will help you.

X. Future Continuous Tense is used:

To express an action as going on happening at a particular time in future.

- eg. 1. I will be waiting for you.
 - 2. The children will be watching television.
 - 3. Will you be doing some business?

XI. Future Perfect Tense is used:

To express an action that will be completed at sometime in future.

- eg. 1. The gate keeper will have closed the gate.
 - 2. They will have started their journey.
 - 3. The postman will have brought the letter.

XII. Future Perfect Continuous Tense is used:

To express an action or situation that will be completed in future time and