



14. THE USES OF THE 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.

4. 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. ×
He does not understand me. ✓
2. Are you understanding my class? ×
Do you understand my class? ✓

3. I am not knowing his address. ✗
 I do not know his address. ✓
4. He is hating me. ✗
 He hates me. ✓
5. My mother is loving me so much. ✗
 My mother loves me so much. ✓

III. Present Perfect Tense is used :

1. To talk about the present result of a past action. That means, we **look back from the present to the past**. It is the **present tense** which is 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, recently, this year** etc.

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.

VIII. **Past Perfect Continuous Tense** is used :

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

eg. 1. She **had been dancing** when I **met** her. *sub the d/have been + g + do*

(= I met her sometime back, but before that she was going on dancing without any stop.)

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.)

IX. **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