

The Different Ways in Which Tenses, Person and Number Are Formed and Used in English Grammar

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Abstract

English grammar comprises three primary tenses. The past, present, and future are among them. An event that takes place in the present, in the past, or in the future can all be explained using one of these tenses. When we combine the three primary tenses with aspects, we are left with twelve alternative tenses. Furthermore, the term "person" designates the part of a sentence that expresses the writer's intention regarding who is being mentioned. Grammatical persons are those who are described by the speaker or writer in the sentence, such as how they are involved in the action mentioned in the sentence. This suggests that the subject of the phrase is referring to one of three people: himself, the person he is speaking about, or the person to whom the sentence is addressed. As a result, first, second, and third person are terms used to describe these types of people.

Keywords: non-linguistic concept, root, noun, pronoun, verb, adjective

Time is a universal and non-linguistic concept with three divisions: past, present and future. Tense is a linguistic concept. It is the correspondence between the form of the verb and our concept of time. Grammar tenses refer to the state of the verb. The state, or tense of the verb explains the time of the action.

As you mentioned, there are three major tenses in English. These include past, present, and future. Each of these tenses can explain an event that occurred in the past, an event that occurs in the present, or an event that will occur in the future. We are left with twelve different tenses when combining the three main tenses with aspects. Before we list these twelve tenses, let's take a quick look at aspects. Aspect concerns the manner in which the verbal action is experienced or regarded, for example, completed or in progress.

Let us speak about the first tense which is called the **Simple Present Tense**. It is formed by adding -s or -es to the end of the main verb in the third person singular. For example, *I love Malika. Malika loves Karim*. We know that Malika is the third person singular, that is why to the verb is added -s at the end. This tense is used when an action is happening right now, or when it happens regularly or unceasingly. For example, *I feel great! My little sister loves chocolate very much*.

The other usage of Present Simple is used when we talk about habitual actions or occurrences. For example, *Jamila practices the violin every day. His father works in Russia*.

The negative form of present simple tense is formed by putting the auxiliary verb **do not** and **does not** before the subject and also paying attention to the third person singular. And you can also use the contraction **don't** or **doesn't** instead of **do not** or **does not**. For example, *Lola does not want to share the pie. Her friends do not agree. I don't want pie anyway*.

The next tense is the **Simple Past Tense** and its structural formula is **Subject + verb (-d, -ed or 2nd form) + object**. We know that there are two kinds of verbs, regular and irregular. For regular verbs we add -ed to the root form of the verb (or just -d if the root form already ends in an e): Play→Played; Type→Typed

For irregular verbs, things get more complicated. The simple past tense of some irregular verbs looks exactly like the root form or are changed their root:

Put→Put

Cut→Cut

See→Saw

Build→Built

Go→Went

The Simple Past is a verb tense that is used to talk about things that happened or existed before now. Imagine someone asks what your sister Jamila did while she was in town last weekend. For example,

Jamila entered a basketball contest. She won the silver medal.

The simple past tense shows that you are talking about something that has already happened. Unlike the past continuous tense, which is used to talk about past events that happened over a period of time, the simple past tense emphasizes that the action is finished like this example: *Jamila admired the way the light glinted off her silver medal.*

The following tense is the **Simple Future Tense**. This tense's structural formula is: **Subject + shall/will+ verb+ object**. The simple future tense is used to predict or to forecast something that will happen in the future. It is an imagination of our mind that we plan to do something. For example,

This year Botir will read Boburnoma. It will be hard, but he's determined to do it.

We also use the simple future to talk about an action or condition that will begin and end in the future.

Now let us speak about Continuous tenses and the first is the **Present Continuous tense**. This tense is formed by the auxiliary verb to be (is / am/ are) plus main verb (ing) after the subject. The Present Continuous verb tense indicates that an action or condition is happening now, frequently, and may continue into the future. For example, *She is drinking her coffee while you ask this question.*

But we do not use the present continuous tense with **stative** verbs. Stative verbs show a state of being that does not show qualities of change. These verbs can stay in the simple present. For example, *Dilorom does not want to see this film.*

The next Continuous tense is the **Past Continuous Tense**. Its structural formula is **Subject + auxiliary verb (was/were) + main verb (ing) + object**. The past continuous tense, also known as the past progressive tense, refers to a continuing action or state that was happening at some point in the past. For example,

I was traveling to Turkey to attend a business meeting.

They were playing an act in the annual gathering.

He was not listening to my words.

The next is the **Future Continuous Tense**. Its formula is **Subject + shall/will be + Verb (ing) + object**. The future continuous tense is used to explain the ongoing action at a particular instant in the future or happen in the future. For example,

He will be writing the answers to all the questions in an examination. She will be singing at tonight's concert.

Now it is turn to speak about Perfect tenses and obviously about the **Present Perfect Tense**. This tense is formed by auxiliary verb (have/has) plus verb(ed) or Participle II after the subject. The present perfect tense is used to express the situation or event which is completed but in a present consequence. It is a combination of the ideal aspect done in the present tense.

He has completed the task.

She has gone for lunch with her friends.

They have given three mock tests already.

The next perfect tense is the **Past Perfect Tense** and its structural formula is **Subject + had + Verb (ed) + object**. The past perfect tense is used to tell the happened situation which occurred before a completed action in the past. It also shows the specific time when the action occurred. The past perfect tense is also called a pluperfect in English and combines the past tense and a perfect aspect.

I had never imagined that you did that night.

She had gone to hang out with her boyfriend.

They had rescued the entire refugees from the flooded area.

The train had left the station by the time I reached there.

The last perfect tense is the **Future perfect tense** and its structural formula is **Subject + shall/will + have + verb (3rd form) + object**. The future perfect tense is used to describe a future action that has a fixed date schedule. This is a verb form that expresses an event planned to happen at a particular instant of time in the future.

I shall have played tennis in college.

She will have baked a cake for tomorrow's event.

They will have arrived in Tashkent for their concert.

I will have stopped looking at her when she comes near me.

Besides these tenses there are Perfect Continuous tenses in English grammar which are used rarely but fundamentally. We can widely speak about them on our next assignments.

The ways in which person is indicated in English grammar

Person is an extremely frequent word in the English language, and everybody who has even a basic understanding of the language is aware of what it means. However, only a small number of people are aware of what a grammatical person is and how it differs from the other person we typically use when speaking English. Below, we will talk about the grammatical person in English, including its varieties and applications.

In English grammar, the term person refers to the quality of the phrase or clause in a sentence which indicates who the writer is referring to. The way the speaker or writer describes the other person in the sentence, like how that particular person is involved in the action described in the sentence is called grammatical person. This implies that the subject is referring to whom in the sentence; itself, the person it is talking to or the person that he is talking about. Accordingly, these forms of persons are termed as first, second and third person.

When the subject is referring to itself in the sentence, the sentence is said to be in first person.

I was shocked by the news.

The above sentence indicates that the subject **I** is talking about him/herself in the sentence so it is in first person. The first person makes use of pronouns **I** and **we**.

The sentence is said to be in second person when the subject is talking to another person in the sentence. That other person is someone other than the subject and is somehow involved in the action taking place in the sentence.

***You** were shocked by the news.*

Now in this example, the writer is talking to someone other than itself and is using you to depict that. This indicates that the sentence is in second person. Second person makes use of the pronoun **you**.

When the writer is talking about a third person in a sentence, a person that is not there for the action taking place in the same sentence, then that sentence is said to be in third person.

***He** was shocked by the news.*

Now the use of **he** indicates that the writer is not referring to himself or the second person with whom he is talking but the third person who might not even be there for the event. This sentence is an example of third person. The third person make use of pronouns **he, she, it, they**.

The ways in which number is indicated in English grammar

One might think that number is only related to the math class and has nothing to do with English and language. Number is not just a numerical term used in mathematics and accounting. There is a number in English grammar too which you might have learned about in your literature class.

Now, I am going to discuss about the grammatical number and how it is used in various sentences. First of all, the term number is come from the language of old folks, from Latin and it means division or number.

In English grammar, the word number refers to the distinction between the singular and plural. Number applies to nouns, pronouns, verbs and adjectives too. Whether a noun, pronoun, verb or adjective is existing as a singular or as a plural in a sentence is depicted by its number. For example, *A wide range of products is displayed.*

In this above example, the noun *range* and verb *is* both are existing in singular form. Thus, the above example sentence is agreeing in number.

You might have heard that a particular sentence is not agreeing in number.

A wide range of products are displayed.

Now in this example, the noun or the subject *range* is singular whereas the verb *are* is plural. Thus, the above sentence is not agreeing in number and it is wrong.

Those kinds of clothes is not suitable.

The above sentence is not agreeing in number and is wrong.

Those kinds of clothes are not suitable.

This is the correct sentence and is agreeing in number as *kinds, clothes* and *are* are all plural.

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