

Identify the tenses

There are twelve tenses in English and each one of them has different verb forms. The biggest problem that students face while using tenses is the inability to conjugate verbs.

English verbs tend to change their forms according to the number and person of the subject. For example, in the simple present tense, the verb takes the marker -s when the subject is a singular noun or pronoun.

In the present continuous tense, the verb takes the auxiliary is when the subject is third person singular noun or pronoun. It takes the auxiliary verb are when the subject is a plural noun or pronoun.

While native speakers pick up these rules easily, they cause a great deal of confusion for an ESL student.

Use this exercise to test your ability to recognize the different tense forms. It is simple. You just need to write the name of the tense against each sentence. Some sentences may be in the passive voice. In that case, you also need to mention that.

1. I have been working on my computer for six hours.

Present continuous

Past continuous

Present perfect continuous

2. She has lived in this street for ten years.

Simple present

Simple past

Identify the tenses

Present perfect

3. I finished the project yesterday.

Simple past

Simple present

Present perfect

4. What are you doing there?

Present continuous

Present perfect

Past continuous

5. She had not realized that.

Simple present

Present perfect

Past perfect

6. Susan will be joining us.

Present continuous

Future continuous tense

Past continuous

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7. Have you ever been to Australia?

Simple present

Present perfect tense

Past perfect tense

8. This house had been destroyed by the fire.

Present perfect

Past perfect

Simple past

9. The boys were severely reprimanded by their teacher.

Simple past tense

Present perfect

Past perfect

10. I had been working in the garden.

Present continuous

Past continuous

Past perfect continuous

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11. She will come with us.

Simple present

Simple future

Present perfect

12. By this time tomorrow, I will have finished working on it.

Simple future

Future continuous

Future perfect

Answers

1. I have been working on my computer for six hours. (Present perfect continuous tense - active)
2. She has lived in this street for ten years. (Present perfect tense - active)
3. I finished the project yesterday. (Past simple tense - active)
4. What are you doing there? (Present continuous tense - active)
5. She had not realized that. (Past perfect tense - active)
6. Susan will be joining us. (Future continuous tense - active)

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7. Have you ever been to Australia? (Present perfect tense - active)
8. This house had been destroyed by the fire. (Past perfect tense - passive)
9. The boys were severely reprimanded by their teacher. (Past simple tense - passive)
10. I had been working in the garden. (Past perfect continuous tense - active)
11. She will come with us. (Simple future tense - active)
12. By this time tomorrow, I will have finished working on it. (Future perfect tense - active)