



# Sentence and Tense

## Sentence

A group of words that has a subject, a helping verb, a verb and its object, is called 'a sentence'.

e. g. (i) **They are playing near the river.**

Subject + helping verb + verb + object

(ii) **Our country is great.**

Subject + helping verb + object

## Kinds of Sentences

### 1. Simple/Affirmative Sentences

Subject + helping verb + form of the verb + object.

e.g.

(i) **Mohan has watched the movie.**

Subject + helping verb + form of verb + object

### 2. Negative Sentences

Subject + helping verb + not  
+ form of verb + object.

e.g.

(i) **Mohan has not watched the movie.**

Subject + helping verb + not  
+ form of verb + object

### 3. Interrogative Sentences

Helping verb + subject + form of verb  
+ object ?

(i) **Has Mohan watched the movie ?**

Helping verb + subject + form of verb  
+ object ?

## Tense

Tense shows the period in which an action takes place and its relation with the time.

## Kinds of Tenses

There are four kinds of tenses. They are as follows

### 1. Indefinite (Simple) Tense

(i) **Present Indefinite** shows the action that regularly happens.

Subject + verb<sup>1</sup> / verb' + e/es + object.

(a) Kavita plays with a ball. (Affirmative)

(b) Kavita does not play with a ball.  
(Negative)

(c) Does Kavita play with a ball?  
(Interrogative)

(ii) **Past Indefinite** shows the action that happened in Past

Subject + verb<sup>2</sup> + object.

(a) We insulted him. (Affirmative)

(b) We did not insult him. (Negative)

(c) Did we insult him? (Interrogative)

(iii) **Future Indefinite** shows the action that will happen in future.

Subject + will/shall + verb<sup>1</sup> + object

(a) You will fight with us. (Affirmative)

(b) You will not fight with us. (Negative)

(c) Will you fight with us? (Interrogative)

## 2. Continuous Tense

- (i) **Present Continuous** shows the action is happening at present  
Subject + is/are/am + verb<sup>1</sup> + ing + object.  
e.g. (a) They are cutting the tree.
- (ii) **Past Continuous** shows the action was happening in past.  
Subject + was/were + verb<sup>1</sup> + ing + object.  
e.g. (a) They were cutting the tree.
- (iii) **Future Continuous** shows the action that is continuous in future.  
Subject + will/shall + be + verb<sup>1</sup> + ing + object  
e.g. (a) They will be cutting the tree.

## 3. Perfect Tense

- (i) **Present Perfect** shows the action that is recently completed  
Subject + had/have + verb<sup>3</sup> + object.  
e.g.  
(a) His students have completed the lesson.
- (ii) **Past Perfect** shows the action that was already completed.  
Subject + had + verb<sup>3</sup> + object.  
e.g.  
(a) His students had completed the lesson.
- (iii) **Future Perfect** shows the action that is supposed to have been completed in future.

Subject + will/shall + have + verb<sup>3</sup> + object.

e.g.

- (a) His students will have completed the lesson.

## 4. Perfect Continuous

- (i) **Present Perfect Continuous** shows the action that started in past and is still going on.  
Subject + has/have + been + verb<sup>1</sup> + ing + since/for + time  
e.g.  
(a) The girl has been sleeping for two hours.
- (ii) **Past Perfect Continuous** shows the action was going on in past and had already started.  
Subject + had been + verb<sup>1</sup> + ing  
+ object + since/for + time.  
e.g.  
(a) The girl had been sleeping since morning.
- (iii) **Future Perfect Continuous** shows the action that is going on in future and has already started.  
Subject + will/shall + have been + verb<sup>1</sup> + ing + since/for + time.  
e.g. (a) The girl will have been sleeping for three hours.

# Practice Exercise

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 1-25) *Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb by selecting the correct option.*

- 1. Who ..... food in your family when your mother is not at home?  
(a) cooks  
(b) is cooking  
(c) has been cooking  
(d) cooked

- 2. Where is John? He ..... his car in the garage.

(a) repairs (b) is repairing  
(c) has repaired (d) repaired

- 3. She ..... the living room when she heard a strange noise in the kitchen.

(a) has cleaned  
(b) has been cleaning  
(c) was cleaning  
(d) have cleaned

4. I envy you. At five tomorrow you ..... some **suntan** on a nice beach in Goa.  
 (a) will get  
 (b) will be getting  
 (c) will have gotten  
 (d) will have been getting
5. You arrived two days ago. You are going to leave next Sunday. By the time you leave, you ..... nine days here.  
 (a) spend (b) have spent  
 (c) are spending (d) will have spent
6. Where is he? I ..... for him since three o'clock.  
 (a) am waiting (b) have been waiting  
 (c) was waiting (d) had been waiting
7. I went to Singapore last month. I ..... there before. It's a beautiful country.  
 (a) have never been (b) had never been  
 (c) never was (d) never been
8. He said that his mother would be very upset when she..... that he had lost his job.  
 (a) learns (b) learned  
 (c) had learned (d) would learn
9. She said she ..... late at the office that evening and that she ..... home till about eleven.  
 (a) is working/got  
 (b) was working/gets  
 (c) would be working/wouldn't get  
 (d) will be working/was getting
10. As soon as there ..... even a temporary break in the weather the climbers..... their attempt to reach the summit.  
 (a) is/will renew (b) was/renew  
 (c) will be/renewed (d) is/renewed
11. In the evenings, I often play chess with my next door neighbour. I .....chess with him ever since I ..... to live here ten years ago.  
 (a) have been playing/came  
 (b) play/came  
 (c) am playing/have come  
 (d) have played/have come
12. Anuradha ..... her driving test three times because she's so bad at reversing. But she ..... reversing since last week and I think she has got better at it.  
 (a) has failed/has been practising  
 (b) failed/practised  
 (c) failed/was practising  
 (d) fails/practises
13. I have been waiting for the prices of the houses to come down before buying I think I ..... too long and they .....to go up again.  
 (a) wait/began  
 (b) am waiting/began  
 (c) have waited/are beginning  
 (d) waited/ were beginning
14. Recently, I experienced how tedious long plane trips could be. I ..... in an airplane for fairly long distances before, but never as long as when I went to America last month.  
 (a) have never flown (b) didn't fly  
 (c) have flown (d) hadn't flown
15. This bicycle ..... in our family for fourteen years. My father used it for the first five years, my brother rode it for the next five and I ..... if for the last four.  
 (a) is/have had (b) had been/had  
 (c) was/had had (d) has been/have had
16. It's a great pity you didnt come to London with us last summer. As you ..... it before, it ..... a wonderful holiday for you.  
 (a) hadn't seen/would have been  
 (b) have never seen / will surely be  
 (c) didn't see/has been  
 (d) haven't seen/was
17. Yesterday at a restaurant, I saw Sameera, an old friend of mine. I had not seen her for years. At first, I ..... her because she ..... atleast 20 kilos.  
 (a) didn't recognise/lost  
 (b) didn't recognise/ had lost  
 (c) hadn't recognised/lost  
 (d) haven't recognised/had lost

- 18.** Our sailing club is trying to raise money to buy a new lifeboat. By the end of the year, we ..... out 500 letters asking for contributions.  
 (a) were to send  
 (b) will have sent  
 (c) will be sending  
 (d) will have been sending
- 19.** Early signs of the rebirth or civilisation in Western Europe ..... to appear in the 11th century as trade ..... again in Italy.  
 (a) were beginning/will start  
 (b) began/started  
 (c) would begin/starts  
 (d) begin/was starting
- 20.** When a group ..... to a new country, its members ..... that they have to modify their way of life, including their celebrations of significant events.  
 (a) will immigrate/find  
 (b) are immigrating/ will be found  
 (c) immigrate/find  
 (d) were immigrating/found
- 21.** When he ..... that his nomination would mean competing with this closest friend he ..... to withdraw.  
 (a) realises /will be decided  
 (b) realised/was deciding  
 (c) will realise/decides  
 (d) realised/decided
- 22.** Computers that once ..... up entire rooms ..... now small enough to put on desktops and into wristwatches.  
 (a) took /are  
 (b) were taking/would be  
 (c) will take/will be  
 (d) are taking/will be
- 23.** The immune system ..... by distinguishing between the body's own materials and things that ..... foreign to the body.  
 (a) works/would be  
 (b) will be working/ are  
 (c) works/are  
 (d) was working/will be
- 24.** Despite the multi-religious nature of the nation, it ..... that most inhabitants of the country ..... common ancestors.  
 (a) will seem/will share  
 (b) seems/share  
 (c) seemed/will share  
 (d) seems/were sharing
- 25.** The minute we ..... his gift we ..... him a note of thanks.  
 (a) received/wrote  
 (b) are receiving/wrote  
 (c) will receive/would write  
 (d) were receiving/wrote
- Directions (Q. Nos. 26-30) Find out the part which has an error in the following sentences. If there is no error, your answer is (d).**
- 26.** She (a)/ did not write (b)/ the letter till now. (c)/ No error (d)
- 27.** Many observations indicate (a)/ that the number of the drug addicts (b)/ is grew day by day. (c)/ No error (d)
- 28.** He asked (a)/ why he does not (b)/joining the picnic party. (c)/ No error (d)
- 29.** My wife is painting (a)/ the furniture (b)/ whenever she has time. (c)/ No error (d)
- 30.** The police break open (a)/ the trunk (b)/ and found the looted jewellery. (c)/ No error. (d)

## Answers

1	(a)	2	(b)	3	(c)	4	(b)	5	(d)	6	(b)	7	(b)	8	(b)	9	(c)	10	(a)
11	(a)	12	(a)	13	(c)	14	(d)	15	(d)	16	(a)	17	(b)	18	(b)	19	(b)	20	(c)
21	(d)	22	(a)	23	(c)	24	(b)	25	(a)	26	(b)	27	(c)	28	(b)	29	(a)	30	(a)