

CHAPTER - I

Tense Revisited

We learnt about tense and time in the previous class. Now, we realize that **time** is a continuous flow measured in seconds, minutes, hours, days, or years. On the other hand, **tense** is a grammatical concept specific to a particular language. The tense system in English is not similar to that of any other language such as Odia or Sanskrit.

English language has only two defined tenses of verbs: *present* and *past*. With the help of these two tenses we express three phases of time: *past*, *present* and *future*. So, at times, we have difficulty in expressing ourselves using the proper tense forms of verbs. In this chapter, we will study how the available tense forms of verbs express all the three phases of time.

Ways of expressing the present time

Anita: What *is* your brother *doing* these days?

Binita: He *is studying* at a college this year. He *is studying* +2 Science. He *is preparing* himself for engineering studies.

Anita: He *wants* to be an engineer, *doesn't* he?

Binita: Yes, I *think* so.

Look at the verbs in the dialogue given above. What tense forms are they in?

We use the following tense forms of verbs in order to express the present time:

1. Present simple for *habitual action, laws of nature, general or scientific truths, present state or present fact, and permanent state or permanent fact.*

Examples :

I *go* to school everyday.

The sun *rises* in the east.

Tigers *live* in forests.

Water *boils* at 100° c.

I *feel* hungry.

I *study* at this school.

Permanent snow *covers* the Antarctica.

Bhubaneswar *is* the capital of Odisha.

2. **Present progressive** for *something happening now, for something happening over a period of time, or for a temporary action.*

Examples :

It *is raining* (now).

My brother *is searching* for a job.

He usually goes to school on his bicycle, but today he *is going* there on foot.

Activity - 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given in brackets: [You can use she or her, if required.]

He ——— (get) up early everyday. He —— (brush) his teeth and ——— (have) his bath. He —— (take) a quick breakfast. He —— (not want) to be punished at school. So, he —— (set out) early to reach school in time. He —— (sit) on the same bench in my classroom. He ——— (have) straight hair and a sharp nose. What is his name?

Activity - 2

Write the daily activity of an animal, for example, a cow/dog/cat/tiger/horse or any other animal/bird. Don't mention the name of the animal. For example, *I'm a domestic animal. I have four legs and a long tail*, etc. Let your friends guess what animal you have thought of.

Activity - 3

Work in pairs, A and B. Your partner will tell you some sentences that are wrong. Correct your partner. Then speak your sentences and let your partner correct you. In this way complete all the sentences and at the end, write down the corrected answers.

Example: A: Mr Rao likes to eat fish.

B: No, he doesn't eat fish. He's a vegetarian.

Wrong sentences for A:

Water freezes at 4°C.

Cuttack is the capital of Odisha.

The sun goes round the earth.

Viswanathan Anand plays football.

The Prime Minister of India lives in Mumbai.

Wrong sentences for B:

Water floats on oil.

A rose is a kind of fruit.

Sachin Tendulkar plays hockey.

Vande Mataram is our National Anthem.

New York is the capital of the USA.

Activity - 4

Work in pairs. Match the following sentences (1-6) with the uses of the *present simple* and *present progressive* (a-f).

- 1 I live in Sambalpur.
- 2 She's staying with her aunt at the moment.
- 3 Toffees are very sweet.
- 4 His English is getting better all the time.
- 5 I usually go to school on foot.
- 6 Look. Two swans are carrying a tortoise.

Present simple

- a. General or scientific truths
- b. Permanent state or permanent fact
- c. Habitual action

Present Progressive

- d. Something happening now
- e. Something happening over a period of time
- f. Temporary action

Activity-5

Look out through the window. What do you see? Write three sentences about the things that you see. Read out and see who else has written one exactly like you. For today, you are special friends.

Activity - 6

Use either the *present simple* or the *present progressive* to complete the dialogue.

Seema : Hello Lopa, what (you / do) these days?

Lopa : Nothing much. I (learn) how to dance in a dancing school. What about you?

Seema : Me? I (work) at a training school. The school (offer) lessons on cooking.

Lopa : (you / like) the job?

Seema : Yes, of course. I (prefer) this job because I (also learn) a lot how to cook while working here.

Lopa : What (they / teach) now?

Seema : Right now they (give) lessons on Chinese food. You know, Chinese dishes (taste) so good!

Lopa : Can I join the classes someday?

Seema : Sure. They (want) more and more students to join their school. You are welcome.

Lopa : Thank you.

Ways of expressing the past time

Anita: How *was* your weekend?

Binita: Oh, really good. I *went* to Puri with my family.

Anita *Did* you *spend* some time at the sea shore?

Binita: Wow, that *was* terrific. *Have* you ever *been* there?

Anita: Yes, I *spent* my childhood there.

Look at the verbs in the dialogue given above. What tense forms are they in?

We use the following tense forms of verbs in order to express the past time:

1. **Present perfect** for a *past action with present relevance*, as in
I *have* (already) *done* my homework.
2. **Present perfect progressive** for *something that started in the past, continuing at present and likely to continue in the future*, as in
I am out of breath because I *have been running* round the playground.

3. **Past simple** for a *past action that happened in a moment, or a past action that happened over a period of time*, as in

India *became* free in 1947.

The British *ruled* over India for many years.

4. **Past perfect** for an *older action in the past*, as in

When we reached the station, the train *had left*. So, we went to our village by bus.

5. **Past progressive** for an *action in progress in the past*, as in

I *was studying* in class IX last year.

6. **Past perfect progressive** for a *past action in progress for some time when another action took place*, as in

They *had been driving* for two hours when their car broke down.

Activity - 1

Complete the following conversation, using either the *past simple* or the *present perfect* form of the verb given in brackets.

Ashok : What are these people doing here? What (happen)?

Bini : There (be) an accident.

Ashok : An accident? What (happen) exactly?

Bini : A cat (run) across the road in front of a car. The driver (try) to apply the brake and (hit) the tree on the side of the road.

Ashok : When (it happen)?

Bini : About ten minutes ago.

Ashok : (anyone call) for an ambulance?

Bini : No, not yet. But the police (arrive). They will take care of that.

Ashok : This is the second accident we (have) here this week.

Bini : We should have a road hump here.

Activity - 2

Make sentences using the *present perfect progressive* tense form of the verbs.

Mrs Das is very tired. (work hard)

Mr Das looks pale. (not feel well / all day)

Their son Ashok has got a headache. (watch TV / all evening)

Their daughter Bini has got no money left. (buy clothes)

They are sitting idle and can't do anything. (rain / since the evening)

Activity - 3

One sentence in each of the following pairs is wrong. Strike it off.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | I can go home now. | I have finished my class work. |
| | | I have been finishing my class work. |
| 2 | You look tired. | Have you worked in the garden? |
| | | Have you been working in the garden? |
| 3 | Tell the truth. | Have you broken the window? |
| | | Have you been breaking the window? |
| 4 | Your eyes are red. | You have cried. |
| | | You have been crying. |
| 5 | Now you can live in that room. | We have repaired the roof. |
| | | We have been repairing the roof. |

Activity - 4

Fill in the blanks with the *past simple* or *present perfect* forms of the verbs given in brackets.

Rahul : _____ (you / see) Jagu last night?

Bakul : No, but I _____ (just come) from his house. He's in bed. He _____ (be) very ill for the last three days, actually.

Rahul : I'm sorry to hear that. So that's why he _____ (not come) to the party last night.

Bakul : The doctor _____ (see) him twice by now. He's coming again tomorrow. Oh, by the way, Jagu _____ (send) your book.

Activity - 5

Combine the given sentences into single ones using the *past perfect* or the *past simple* forms of the verbs.

The alarm clock rang. I woke up = As soon as _____

I cleaned my teeth. I took bath. = After I _____

I got dressed. I had breakfast. = When _____

I brushed my teeth again. I looked at my watch. = When _____

I looked at my watch. I realized I was late. = When _____

I arrived at the school. I remembered it was Sunday. = When _____

Activity - 6

Work in pairs A and B. Without showing *your* sentences to *your* partner, you write five sentences using the *past perfect* tense of verbs. You must put before the sentences an expression like *as soon as / when / by the time / after*. In the mean time, your partner writes five sentences using the *past simple* tense of verbs. After writing the sentences, show each other the sentences and try to combine them. When the teacher asks you, go and write the combined sentences on the blackboard. (All the sentences may not combine.)

Example: As soon as he had watered the plants ...

It started to rain. / The teacher asked me a question. (can't combine)

Activity - 7

Fill in the blanks using the *past simple* or the *past progressive* forms of the verbs given in brackets.

Once when I _____ (read) in my room, I _____ (hear) a lot of noise outside. I _____ (come) out and _____ (see) that many people _____ (run) in a particular direction. They _____ (shout) at the top of their voice. They all _____ (have) buckets and water pots in their hands. I _____ (ask) them what the matter was. Somebody _____ (point) at a house at the end of our village. I _____ (see) that the house _____ (burn). People _____ (throw) water at the house in order to put out the fire. Very soon the fire _____ (come) under control.

Activity-8

Use the *past progressive* or the *past simple* forms of the given verbs and rewrite the paragraph.

I (walk) along the street one day when I (see) something strange. I (notice) a person of the same height as me and (have) the same hair style. He (wear) clothes of the same colour and (carry) a school bag just as mine. He (just / cross) the road ahead of me but he (not / avoid) me at all. I (be) sure of that. As he (go across) the road, I (follow) him.

Activity - 9

Complete the following dialogue using the *past perfect* or the *past perfect progressive* forms of the verbs given in brackets.

Federer : My best moment in the match was when I realized that the game (finish) and I (become) the champion. I (win) at last. At that moment I (become) the best Tennis player of the world.

Reporter : And when you won, how long (you / play) Tennis?

Federer : I started just before I finished school. That means, I (play) for about six years when I won the Wimbledon.

Reporter : You (beat) some good players before you won that tournament.

Federer : Yes. Ever since I started as a Tennis professional, I (win) games regularly, until my injury.

Ways of expressing the future time

Anita : Say, Bini, what *are you doing* this afternoon? *Would you like* to go shopping with me?

Binita : Oh, sorry. I can't. I *am going to finish* my homework before the evening. My uncle and aunt *are coming* to our house.

Anita : You *will help* your mother, won't you?

Binita : Of course. Moreover, my uncle's little son loves me so much. We *are going to play* together.

Anita : That *will be* great. Bye. Have a nice time.

Look at the verbs in italics in the dialogue given above. What tense forms are they in? What time do they refer to?

We use the following tense forms of verbs in order to express the future time:

1. With the help of **modals** for *simple future of an unplanned action*, as in
Wait a minute. I *will* come with you.
2. **Be going to + verb** for *future fulfilment of present cause or indication, and future action with present intention or decision*, as in
There are dark clouds in the sky. It *is going to rain*.
We *are going to leave* for Puri tomorrow morning.
3. **Present Progressive** for a *planned or arranged programme of a future action*, as in - The Chief Minister *is meeting* the Governor tomorrow morning.
4. **Present simple** for *an official programme (where future is seen as a fact)*, as in
Tomorrow *is* Sunday.
The match *begins* at 4.30 pm.
5. Others like *be about to, will be v-ing, will have v-en*, etc. are for *something imminent, an action to be in progress in the future, an action to be completed in the future* respectively. You studied examples of these types in the previous class.

Activity - 1

Use *shall* / *will* in the blank spaces:

- i. A friend is trying to move a heavy table. You say, "——— I give you a hand?"
- ii. "There is a lot of cleaning to do. You do the cleaning and I —— do the drying."
- iii. A friend is carrying a lot of books to the library. You are going there anyway. Y o u say, " I —— take them there if you like."
- iv. I —— go and ask the clerk if he has a spare key.

Activity - 2

Work in small groups and write a four-line poem. Your first line should be one of the following expressions. The other three lines must be your creation and must start with *I'll*. The lines need not rhyme.

- # When I'm old and gray,
- # When I go to college,
- # When I wake up tomorrow,
- # When I become famous,
- # When I win a prize next,
- # When father pats me on the back (tomorrow),

Activity - 3

In each of the following pairs of sentences, one is more natural and common. Cross out the more unusual ones.

- i. Leave that. (I'll carry it. / I'm going to carry it) for you.
- ii. Bye. (I'll see you / I'm going to see you) tomorrow.
- iii. (I'll post / I'm going to post) these letters for you if you like.
- iv. I'm so tired. (I'll go / I'm going to go) to bed.
- v. I'm so far behind with my studies that (I'll work / I'm going to work) next Sunday.

Activity - 4

Two friends Nilu and Chinu are leaving school together. Their parents have gone to their village. Some of the lines of their conversation are correct and some have mistakes. If a line is correct, put a tick mark. If a line has a mistake in it, underline the mistake and write the correct expression against the brackets.

Where will you eat tonight? (1)

At home. I've got a cookery book, so I'll make a curry. (2)

Why not come to my place? I'm going to cook us both something. (3)

Won't you go to meet your Grandpa? (4)

No, he's left for the village. I'm not going to meet him for a month or so. (5)

O.K. I'm going to come round at 8 and I'll bring some ice-cream. (6)

Fine. I'll see you then. (7)

Activity - 5

Use in the blank spaces *will/shall*, *be going to*, or *present progressive* forms of the verbs given in brackets.

Mina : Would you like to come to watch a movie this weekend?

Nina : I'd like to, but I'm afraid ——— (I / not / have) time.

Mina : Why? ——— (what / do)?

Nina : Well, ——— (my father / arrive) back from Delhi. He's been there for six months and ——— (we / have) a big party to celebrate.

Mina : ——— (he / not / be) too tired for a party after his long train journey?

Nina : Yes and no doubt ——— (he / have) no proper food during the journey. So, on Saturday he can take it easy. But on Sunday, ——— (all the family/come) on a picnic. ——— (I / prepare) things all day on Saturday.

Mina : What a lot of work for you.

Nina : I don't mind. Other members of my family are helpful and we are well organized. In fact, _____ (I / see) someone about hiring a cook this afternoon. So, I must go now or _____ (I / not / get) to their shop before _____ (they / close).

Mina : I hope _____ (everything / go) well for you.

Nina : I'm sure _____ (it / be) a great day. Provided _____ (the weather / remain) fine.

Activity - 6

Copy your time-table for next Thursday. On the basis of that write five sentences to mention what you are going to do that day. Compare your sentences with those of your friend's.

Activity - 7

Use either *will be v-ing* or *will have v-en* in the blank spaces in the following lines. The verbs have been given in brackets.

- i. Our school closes at 4.30. I _____ (take) some snacks at home at five o'clock.
- ii. Our school closes at 4.30. I _____ (reach) home by five o'clock.
- iii. They _____ (not / finish) painting the school building until next week.
- iv. You _____ (take) a test on English Grammar this day next week.
- v. Our teacher _____ (work) here for next five years.
- vi. By the time you read this, I _____ (finish) answering all the questions.

