Present-Tense

What is Tense?

Tense is the verb form that shows the time of an action or event.

There are three main tenses:

Present Tense

Past Tense

Future Tense

Present Tense

The present tense describes:

- Actions happening now
- Daily or habitual actions
- Universal truths or facts
- Fixed or scheduled activities

Types of Present Tense

There are four types of present tense:

Tense	Example
Simple Present	I sing.
Present Continuous	I am singing.
Present Perfect	I have sung.
Present Perfect Continuous	I have been singing.

Simple Present Tense

Usage

• To express habitual actions

Ex: I go for a walk daily.

• To express permanent truth or facts

Ex: Water boils at 100°C.

• To describe fixed or planned events

Ex: The train arrives at 6 a.m.

Formation Rules

Subject Type	Verb Rule	Example
I, We, You, They	Use base form	We play cricket.

He, She, It, Singular Nouns Add -s or -es to base verb She sings.

Examples

- The Earth revolves around the Sun.
- My brother plays football.
- They go to school every day.

Present Continuous Tense

Usage

• For an action going on right now

Ex: I am doing my homework.

• For a planned near-future action

Ex: He is visiting us on Sunday.

To describe an action that is in progress

Ex: She is learning French.

Formation Rules

Subject Type	Auxiliary Verb	Structure	Example
I	am	am + base verb + -ing	I am singing.
He, She, It	is	is + base verb + -ing	He is playing.
We, You, They	are	are + base verb + -ing	We are studying.

Examples

- The cat is sleeping on the sofa.
- My friends are calling me.
- They are swimming zin the pool.

Present Perfect Tense

Usage

- To show an action completed recently
 - Ex: We have finished our project.
- To talk about an action that started in the past and still continues

Ex: She has lived here for 8 years.

Formation Rules

Subject Type	Auxiliary Verb	Structure	Example
I, We, You, They	have	have + past participle of verb	We have eaten.
He, She, It	has	has + past participle of verb	He has gone.

Examples

- Riya has broken her leg.
- We have arrived in Delhi.
- She has won the first prize.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Usage

Describes an action that started in the past and is still continuing
Ex: He has been playing since morning.

Formation Rules

Subject Type	Auxiliary Verb	Structure	Example
I, We, You,	Theyhave been	have been + base verb + - ing	We have been waiting.
He, She, It	has beenhas	been + base verb + -ing	She has been crying.

Examples

- The boys have been playing football.
- She has been doing her homework.
- I have been waiting for you.

Common Errors to Avoid (Spot the Error)

Incorrect Sentence	Correct Sentence
She was absent today.	She is absent today.
He lived in Kolkata all his life.	He has lived in Kolkata all his life.

Points to Remember

Used to point out specific things.

- The present tense shows what is happening now or regularly.
- The simple present is used for routines and facts.
- The present continuous is used for ongoing actions.
- The present perfect shows completed actions relevant to now.
- The present perfect continuous shows actions still continuing.