

The Present Tense

Definition:

Tense is the form of a verb used to indicate the time of action or state expressed by the verb. There are three basic tenses:

- Present
- Past
- Future

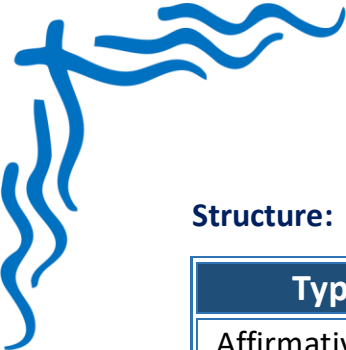
Each of these has four forms:

1. Simple
2. Progressive (Continuous)
3. Perfect
4. Perfect Continuous

1. Simple Present Tense

Usage:

- To express **habitual actions**:
e.g., I go for a walk every day.
- To state **universal truths or facts**:
e.g., The sun rises in the east.
- To describe **current state**:
e.g., She is in the kitchen.
- For **natural qualities/professional facts**:
e.g., Sugar tastes sweet.
- For **actions happening right now** (especially in sports commentary):
e.g., He hits the ball!
- To describe **scheduled or future events**:
e.g., The train arrives at 6 p.m.



Structure:

Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative	Subject + base verb (+s/es for 3rd person)	He eats rice.
Negative	Subject + do/does + not + base verb	She does not eat rice.
Interrogative	Do/does + subject + base verb?	Does he eat rice?
Negative Interrogative	Do/does + subject + not + base verb?	Does he not eat rice?

Note:

- **Do** is used with I, we, you, they.
- **Does** is used with he, she, it.

2. Present Continuous Tense

Usage:

- For actions **happening at the time of speaking**:
e.g., I am writing a note.
- For actions **in progress but temporary**:
e.g., She is learning French.
- To express a **planned action in near future**:
e.g., He is visiting his grandparents tomorrow.
- To express **disapproval of repeated actions**:
e.g., He is always shouting.

Structure:

Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative	Subject + am/is/are + verb+ing	I am eating.
Negative	Subject + am/is/are + not + verb+ing	He is not playing.
Interrogative	Am/Is/Are + subject + verb+ing?	Are you studying?
Negative Interrogative	Am/Is/Are + subject + not + verb+ing?	Is he not working?



3. Present Perfect Tense

Usage:

- To indicate **a recently completed action**:
e.g., I have just finished my meal.
- To describe **a past action with unspecified time**:
e.g., She has gone to the market.
- For an action that **started in the past and continues in the present**:
e.g., He has lived here for ten years.

Structure:

Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative	Subject + has/have + past participle	They have finished work.
Negative	Subject + has/have + not + past participle	He has not eaten lunch.
Interrogative	Has/Have + subject + past participle?	Have you read the book?
Negative Interrogative	Has/Have + subject + not + past participle?	Has he not done the homework?

Note:

- Have is used with I, you, we, they.
- Has is used with he, she, it.

4. Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Usage:

- For an action that started in the past and is still continuing:
e.g., I have been studying for three hours.
- For an action that continued for some time and has just finished:
e.g., She has been washing clothes.



Structure:

Type	Structure	Example
Affirmative	Subject + has/have + past participle	They have finished work.
Negative	Subject + has/have + not + past participle	He has not eaten lunch.
Interrogative	Has/Have + subject + past participle?	Have you read the book?
Negative Interrogative	Has/Have + subject + not + past participle?	Has he not done the homework?

Points to Remember:

- Tense shows time of action.
- Present tense has four forms:
 1. Simple Present
 2. Present Continuous
 3. Present Perfect
 4. Present Perfect Continuous