

Tense Chart With Rules and Examples

This guide covers all 12 English tenses with rules, formulas, and examples.
Use it to improve your speaking and writing, and practice with the included exercises.

Tense Chart

Simple Present

Formula: Subject + V1 (+s/es for 3rd person singular)

Example: She writes a letter.

Present Continuous

Formula: Subject + am/is/are + V1-ing

Example: She is writing a letter.

Present Perfect

Formula: Subject + has/have + V3

Example: She has written a letter.

Present Perfect Continuous

Formula: Subject + has/have been + V1-ing + since/for

Example: She has been writing since morning.

Simple Past

Formula: Subject + V2

Example: She wrote a letter.

Past Continuous

Formula: Subject + was/were + V1-ing

Example: She was writing a letter.

Past Perfect

Formula: Subject + had + V3

Example: She had written a letter.

Past Perfect Continuous

Formula: Subject + had been + V1-ing + since/for

Example: She had been writing since yesterday.

Simple Future

Formula: Subject + will/shall + V1

Example: She will write a letter.

Future Continuous

Formula: Subject + will/shall be + V1-ing

Example: She will be writing a letter.

Future Perfect

Formula: Subject + will/shall have + V3

Example: She will have written a letter.

Future Perfect Continuous

Formula: Subject + will/shall have been + V1-ing + since/for

Example: She will have been writing for an hour.

Practice Exercises

1. She _____ (read) a book when I called her yesterday.
2. By this time next week, we _____ (complete) the project.
3. I _____ (study) English for three years.
4. They _____ (play) football at 5 p.m. yesterday.
5. He _____ (visit) Paris last summer.

Answer Key

1. **was reading**
2. **will have completed**
3. **have been studying**
4. **were playing**
5. **visited**