

Exploring English Skills:

A bridge course for beginners



ST. ALOYSIUS DEGREE COLLEGE

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MODULE 9 : TENSES

Verbs come in two tenses and one future time: past, present, and future time. The past is used to describe things that have already happened (e.g., earlier in the day, yesterday, last week, three years ago). The present tense is used to describe things that are happening right now, or things that are continuous. The future tense describes things that have yet to happen (e.g., later, tomorrow, next week, next year, three years from now).

The following table illustrates the proper use of verb tenses:

Simple Present	Simple Past	Simple Future
I <i>read</i> nearly every day.	Last night, I <i>read</i> an entire novel.	I <i>will read</i> as much as I can this year.
Present Continuous I <i>am reading</i> Shakespeare at the moment.	Past Continuous I <i>was reading</i> Edgar Allan Poe last night.	Future Continuous I <i>will be reading</i> Nathaniel Hawthorne soon.
Present Perfect I <i>have read</i> so many books I can't keep count.	Past Perfect I <i>had read</i> at least 100 books by the time I was twelve.	Future Perfect I <i>will have read</i> at least 500 books by the end of the year.
Present Perfect Continuous I <i>have been reading</i> since I was four years old.	Past Perfect Continuous I <i>had been reading</i> for at least a year before my sister learned to read.	Future Perfect Continuous I <i>will have been reading</i> for at least two hours before dinner tonight.

The Present Tenses

Simple Present: The simple present is a verb tense with two main uses. We use the simple present tense when an action is happening right now, or when it happens regularly (or unceasingly, which is why it's sometimes called present indefinite). Depending on the person, the simple present tense is formed by adding *s* or *es* to the end.

CONCLUSION

Grammar can only be mastered through constant practice because language is a practice of patterns. This book focuses on the rules and techniques of English grammar. It is a sincere attempt to simplify the varied nuances of speaking and writing English in the right meaning and manner. We hope to provide the learner with all the skills required to become a confident and competent scholar of English.



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