

## **Grammar Scholar PDF**

# Understand Everything About Tenses & Prepositions

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This PDF Consists of following two important chapters:

- 1. Tenses
- 2. Prepositions

#### **Grammar Scholar: Tenses**

In Grammar, we use 'Tenses' to define the time of occurring of the action. The tenses in a sentence show the time of an action or state of being as shown by a verb. Actions can take place in Past state, Present state or future state. So there are 3 main types of tenses which are defined as follows:

**Present Tense:** The actions which are doing presently are classified into 'Present tense'. For example:

• He **is eating** Pasta. (Presently he is doing this action of eating)

Past Tense: The actions which we have already done are classified into 'Past tense'.

• He **ate** Pasta (He has already done the action of eating)

**Future Tense:** The actions which we are going to do/will do/planning to do are termed as 'Future tense' sentences.

• He **will eat** Pasta (He is going to do the action of eating)

These 3 tenses are split into 4-4 parts, resulting in total 12 types of Tenses, which are described as following:

#### **Present Tense**

#### 1) Simple Present Tense:

This tense is used when we want to describe an action that is happening at present. But this tense does not indicate when that action is expected to end. Simple present tense is used when:

- If an action has regularity, which means if an action happens every day/every time/every week/every month/every year, then we use 'Simple Present tense for such actions.
- To indicate facts that are universally true.
- Habitual action that happened in past, happening in present and will happen in future

Simple Present Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: This train leaves at eight in the morning.	This train <b>does not leave</b> at eight in the morning.	<b>Does</b> this train <b>leave</b> at eight in the morning ?
For Plural Subject: These girls go dancing class everyday	These girls do not go to dance class everyday	Do these girls go to dance class everyday ?

**Catchwords for Simple Present Tense:** usually, often, sometimes, seldom, always, rarely, never, every day, every week, every time, on Mondays, etc

#### 2) Present Continuous Tense:

If an action that is going on at the time of speaking means if an action is in continuation or progression at present then we use Present Continuus Tense. This is also known as present progressive tense

Present continous tense are used when:

- Some action is happening now while speaking and has a definite end as well.
- When some action or plan is already decided and arranged as well to perform it at some time.





Present Continuous Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: She is doing her homework now	She is not doing her homework now.	Is she doing her homework now?
For Plural Subject: They are doing their homework now.	They are not doing their homework now.	Are they doing their homework now?

**Catchwords for Present continous tense:** now, right now, this quarter, etc.

#### 3) Present Perfect Tense:

This tense explains the incident/action that has happened in the past and still it has relevance.

Present Perfect Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: He has completed his graduation in 2014.	He has not completed his graduation in 2014.	Has he completed his graduation in 2014?
<b>For Plural Subject:</b> They have completed their graduation in 2014.	They have not completed their graduation in 2014.	Have they completed their graduation in 2014?

Catchwords for Present Perfect Tense: just, ever, never, already, yet,

#### 4)Present Perfect Continous Tense:

Present Perfect Continuous Tense is used for a situation that has occurred in the past and which continues until that moment.

Present Perfect Continous Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: Riya has been going to dance class since March.	Riya has not been going to dance class since March.	Has Riya not been going to dance class since March ?
For Plural Subject: I have been reading this awesome novel for two months.	I have not been reading this awesome novel for two months.	Have you been reading this awesome novel for two months?

Catchwords for Present Perfect Contionous tense: for, since, lately

#### **Past Tense**

#### 5) Simple Past Tense:

To describe an action of the past , we use Simple past tense. In this tense the verb ends with an '-ed' . Also some verbs end differently , for example for 'eat' , we use 'Ate' in simple past tense.

Simple Past Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: Raman went for the movie yesterday.	Raman did not go for the movie yesterday.	Did Raman go for the movie yesterday?
For Plural Subject: They went for the movie yesterday.	They did not go for the movie yesterday.	Did they go for the movie yesterday?





**Catchwords for Simple Past Tense:** yesterday, last week, last month, this morning (when meaning is past), etc.

#### 6) Past Continous Tense:

Past continuous tense is used in those sentences in which the actions that have already happened in the past and have been completed before the time of mention. These sentences are formed with the help of an auxiliary verb and giving the main verb an 'ing' ending.

Past Continous Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: She was watching TV when he called her	She was not watching TV when he called her.	Was she watching TV when you called her?
For Plural Subject: They were watching the match together.	They were not watching the match together.	Were they watching the match together?

**Catchwords for Past Continous Tense:** while

#### 7) Past Perfect Tense:

This tense refers to a noncontinuous action that was already completed in the past. Such sentences are formed by using the Simple Past form of the auxiliary verb 'to have', followed by the past participle form of the verb.

Past Perfect Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: He had read this book.	He had not read this book.	Had he read the book?
For Plural Subject: They had done their work.	They had not done their work.	Had they not done their work?

**Catchwords for Past Perfect Tense:** already, before. by the time

#### 8) Past Perfect Continous Tense:

A continuous action that was completed sometime in the past falls under Past Perfect Continuous tense. Such sentences are framed by using the modal, 'had' + 'been' + the present participle of the verb (-ing).

Past Perfect Continous Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: He had been playing the chess all morning.	He had been playing the chess all morning.	Had he not been playing the chess all morning.
For Plural Subject: They had been surfing net all night .	They had not been surfing net all night.	Had they been surfing net all night?

Catchwords for Past Perfect Continous Tense: for, since

#### **Future Tense**

#### 9) Simple Future Tense:

This tense is used for those sentences which refer to the actions which will occur later, in future. This requires a future tense auxiliary verb even though the verb would be unmarked.





Simple Future Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject : She will cook tomorrow.	She will not cook tomorrow.	Will she cook tomorrow?
For Plural Subject: All the girls will take part in cooking classes tomorrow.	All the girls will not take part in cooking classes tomorrow.	Will All the girls take part in cooking classes tomorrow?

#### 10) Future Continous Tense:

This tense defines those acts which will be continued at a future point of time. In order to form a future continuous tense sentence, a future auxiliary verb is required followed by a main verb that ends with -ing.

Future Continous Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: He will be going to Shimla next week.	He will not be going to Shimla next week .	Will he be going to Shimla next week ?
For Plural Subject: They will be celebrating her birthday on coming Monday.	They will not be celebrating her birthday on coming Monday.	Will they be celebrating her birthday on coming Monday ?

#### 11) Future Perfect Tense:

This tense is used to express an act that is predicted to be finished within a certain span of time in the future. Such sentences are formed by 'will' + 'have' + 'past participle of the verb'.

Future Perfect Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: She will have gone by the time you reach her home.	She will not have gone by the time you reach her home.	Will she have gone by the time you reach her home ?
For Plural Subject: She will have gone by the time you reach her home.	They will not have gone by the time you reach her home.	Will they have gone by the time you reach her home?

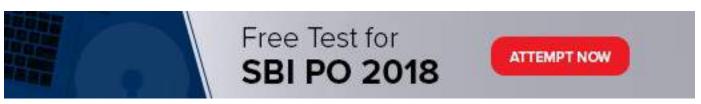
#### Catchwords for Future Perfect Tense: when, by the time

#### 12) Future Perfect Continous Tense:

This tense form indicates an action that is continuous and, at some point in the future, it will be completed. It is formed using the modal 'will/shall' + 'have' + 'been' + 'the past participle of the verb (-ing)'.

Future Perfect Continous Tense		
Affirmative Sentence	Negative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
For Singular Subject: Riya will have been studying English for two hours by the time you arrive here.		Riya will have been studying English for two hours by the time you arrive here.
For Plural Subject: Students will have been playing cricket since morning at this time tomorrow.	Students will not have been playing cricket since morning at this time tomorrow.	Will students have been playing cricket since morning at this time tomorrow?

Catchwords for Future Perfect Continuous Tense: for, by the time





#### **Important Rules of Tenses:**

Below mentioned are some important rules and most common errors of Tenses in English Grammar:

- 1) Do not get confused between use of Present continuous tense and Present perfect continuous Tense. To indicate an action which started in the past has gone on till the present and is still continuing, We use the present perfect continuous tense. Using 'Present continuous tense in such sentences is incorrect. For example:
  - Incorrect: It is raining for two days.
  - Correct: It **has been raining** for two days.
  - Incorrect: The baby is sleeping for three hours now.
  - Correct: The baby has been sleeping for three hours now.
- 2) Do not get confused between present perfect tense/the past perfect tense and simple past tense. In a sentence, With adverbs of past time like, 'last week', 'last Monday', 'yesterday', 'last night' etc, always use simple past tense. Using Present perfect tense is incorrect in these sentences. Present perfect tense is to denote an action that continued in present too. Past perfect tense is only used to talk about the earlier of two past actions. For example:
  - Incorrect: I have seen him yesterday.
  - Incorrect: I had seen him yesterday.
  - Correct: I saw him yesterday.
  - Incorrect: He has returned from Paris last week.
  - Incorrect: He had returned from Paris last week.
  - Correct: He returned from Paris last week.
- 3) When in a sentence, the verb in the main clause is in the future tense, then the verb in the subordinate clause must be in present tense and not in the future tense.
  - Incorrect: I will call you when the dinner will be ready.
  - Correct: I will call you when the dinner is ready.
  - Incorrect: He will help if you will ask him.
  - Correct: He will help if you ask him.
- 4) If something has happened sometime ago, then always use 'Simple Past tense' to indicate such action. Often students use past perfect tense in such cases, which is incorrect. For example:

- Incorrect: I **had been** to New York recently.
- Correct: I went to New York recently.
- Incorrect: I **had written** to him last week.
- Correct: I wrote to him last week.
- Incorrect: We **had gone** to the pictures last night.
- Correct: We **went** to the pictures last night.
- 5) The sentences which indicate that something started in the past and continued up until another time in the past, always use Past perfect continuous tense. Many students often use past continuous or Simple past in such sentences, which is incorrect to use. For example:
  - Incorrect: He said that he was suffering from fever for three days.
  - Correct: He said that he had been suffering from fever for three days.
  - Incorrect: The man complained that his watch was stolen.
  - Correct: The man complained that his watch had been stolen.
  - Incorrect: The doctor concluded that the man died twelve hours ago.
  - Correct: The doctor concluded that the man **had died** twelve hours ago.

#### **Grammar Scholar: Prepositions**

**A preposition** is a word which is used to describe the relationship between other words in a sentence. Prepositions are used before a noun or a pronoun to show its relationship with another word in the sentence. The noun or pronoun which follows a preposition is called its object.

The pronouns which are used after a preposition should be in the objective case always.

Now Understand the following sentences:

- There is some water in the bottle. (the word in shows the relation between two things – water and bottle.)
- He is fond of his daughter. (the word of shows the relation between the adjective fond and the noun daughter.)
- He fell off the ladder. (the word **off** shows the relation between the verb fell and the noun ladder.)

Although Prepositions usually come at the starting or end of a sentence, But sometimes prepositions can also come at the end of the sentences, **For example:** 





- The professor asked the students to indicate the reference book they are quoting from. (The preposition 'From' is ending the sentence)
- The professor asked the students to indicate from which reference book they are quoting.

#### Types of prepositions

Prepositions are classified in following categories:

#### 1) Simple prepositions

The most common and most used prepositions comes under this category. Some examples of Simple prepositions are "at, in, for, to, with, on, off, out, etc".

- He is in the office.
- She sat on the bench.
- She is angry with him.

#### 2) Compound prepositions

The propositions which are generally formed by prefixing a Preposition to a Noun, an Adjective or an Adverb are known as Compound Prepositions.

- The boys ran around the bench
- The book is inside the cupboard
- The fan is above the table

#### 3) Phrase prepositions

Phrase prepositions are the groups of words that serve as prepositions. The words like "according to, along with, because of, in front of, by means of, on behalf of, in accordance with, in addition to, with reference to and in spite of" are called as compound prepositions.

- Owing to his ill health, he retired from business.
- He succeeded by dint of perseverance and hard work.
- She stood in front of the mirror.
- I can't get along with him.

#### **Important Rules of Prepositions**

Following are listed the important rules of prepositions to make you understand of their correct usage.

#### Rule 1) Beside and besides:

**Beside** means 'by the side of'. **Besides** means 'in addition to'.

- They have a house beside the sea. (by the side of the sea)
- He stood beside me. (by my side)

- He plays the violin besides the piano and the guitar. (He plays three instruments.)
- Besides being a good actor, he is also a good singer. (= In addition to being a good actor, he is also a good singer.)

#### Rule 2) Since and for:

**Since** should be used with a point of time in the past. It is used with a present perfect tense. **For** is used only when you refer to a period of time.

- He has been absent since Tuesday. (NOT He has been absent for Tuesday.)
- I have been ill since last week.
- He has been absent for three days. (NOT He has been absent since three days.)
- I have been ill for two weeks.

For is also used to indicate Duration, For example:

- Incorrect: I will be attending the classes regularly since Monday.
- Correct: I will be attending the classes regularly **from** Monday.

#### Rule 3)

Use from to show the starting point only when the end point is also mentioned. In other cases, use since.

- Incorrect: I have been waiting from two hours.
- Correct: I have been waiting for two hours.

#### Rule 4) Between and among:

Between is used to refer to two or three separate people or things, which means when only two parties are involved. Among is used when the reference is to a group of people or things which we do not see separately which means when more than two parties are involved.

- Divide the food **among** the children.
- Divide this food between Riya and Raman.

#### Rule 5) By and with:

**By** is used to refer to the doer of the action. **With** is used to refer to the instrument with which the action is performed.

- The spider was killed by the boy.
- The boy killed the spider with a stone.

#### Rule 6) In and At:

**In** is usually used with large places – countries, districts, large cities etc. **At** is generally used for small and unimportant places like villages, small towns etc. For example :

- We shall meet him at the club this evening.
- His brother lives in Paris.





**Note:** This rule is not very rigidly followed. **In** is often used with small places. **At**, however, is seldom used for big places.

#### Rule 7) On, in, at and by:

**At** shows an exact point of time; **on** shows a more general point of time and **in** shows a period of time. For example :

- I have a meeting at 4 pm.
- The train leaves at 2 o'clock.
- I was born on a Monday.
- I was born on April 21st.
- I was born in January.
- We will visit them in the summer.
- It is very hot in the day but quite cold at night.
- We went to school on foot. (Always Use 'on' with foot, using 'by' with foot is incorrect)

By is also used to show the latest time at which an action will be finished. So it is usually used with a future tense. For example :

- I will be leaving by 6 o'clock.
- I hope to finish the work by next week.

#### Rule 8) On and upon:

**On** is generally used to talk about things at rest. **Upon** is used about things in motion. For example :

- She sat on a chair.
- He jumped upon his horse.

#### Rule 9) In, within:

With reference to time, **in** means at the end of a certain period; **within** means before the end of a certain period. For example :

- I will finish writing this book **in three days**. (at the end of three days)
- I will finish writing this book within three days. (before the end of three days.)

#### Rule 10) Into and Onto:

The difference between into and onto is similar to the difference between in and on.

- He threw the hat onto the roof.
- When she kissed the frog it turned into a handsome prince.

#### Rule 11) Before, across and in front of:

We do not normally use **before** to talk about position/place. Instead, we use **in front of.** The opposite of in front of is behind. As a preposition, before normally indicates the time. It is the opposite of after. Across is also a preposition which means 'from one side to the other'.

- There were hundreds of people in front of me in the queue.
- I need to be there **before 8 pm**. (NOT I need to be there in front of 8 pm.)
- My sister lives across the road.

#### Rule 12) Along:

The proposition **along** is used with nouns that refer to things with a long thin shape. Examples are: **road**, **river**, **corridor**, **line** 

- She ran **along** the road.
- There are trees along the riverside.

#### **Commonly confused prepositions**

#### 1) About and On:

Both **about** and **on** can mean 'regarding'. There is a slight difference of meaning. **About** used in the first sentence suggests that the discussion was ordinary. **On** used in the second sentence suggests that the lecture was serious or academic, suitable for specialists. For example :

- We had a discussion about money.
- He gave a lecture on finance.

#### 2) Despite and in spite of:

Despite and in spite of mean exactly the same, but despite is more common than in spite of. Both expressions are used for saying that something happens although something else might have prevented it. Both of the following sentences are correct to use

- I enjoyed the movie **despite having** a headache.
- I enjoyed the movie **in spite of having** a headache.

**Note:** Never use 'of' after 'despite'. Always use 'of' after 'in spite'.

#### 3) Above and over:

Above and over can both mean 'higher than'. **Above** is preferred when one thing is not directly over another. **Over** is preferred when one thing covers or touches another.

- The water came up **above / over** our waist.
- There is a temple **above** the lake. (The temple is not directly over the lake.)
- He put on a sweater over his shirt. (NOT He put on a sweater above his shirt.)

In measurements of temperature and height we use **above**. In measurements of ages and speeds we use **over**.

- The temperature never rose **above** 5 degrees Celsius.
- You have to be **over** 18 to see that film.





#### 4) Across and through

The difference between **across** and **through** is similar to the difference meaning **on** and **in**. **Through** is used for movement in a three dimensional space, with things on all sides. Across cannot be used with that meaning. For example:

- We went **through** the wood. (We were in the wood.)
- The road goes **through** the forest.
- We walked **across** the desert. (We were on the desert.)
- **5) Across** and **over** can both be used to mean 'on the other side of a line/road/bridge etc'. We prefer **over** when we say 'on/to the other side of something high'. We prefer across when we say 'on/to the other side of something flat'.
  - There is a hospital across/over the border.
     (= There is a hospital on the other side of the border.)
  - His shop is across / over the road. (= His shop is on the other side of the road.)
  - He jumped across / over the stream.
  - He climbed **over** the wall. (NOT He climbed across the wall.)
  - We swam across the river. (NOT We swam over the river.)

#### 6) Along and through

To talk about periods or activities, we prefer **through.** Along when used as a preposition is followed by a noun. Along is used to talk about movement on or beside a line. **Along** is used with nouns like road, river, line etc: words that refer to things with a long thin shape.

- We walked along the road.
- She was silent all through the journey.
   (NOT She was silent all along the journey.)

#### 7) Compare to and compare with

To show likeness, compare is usually used with to. To show differences, compare is usually used with 'with'. As a general rule, use **compare with** when differences are more important than similarities. Use **compare to** when similarities are more important.

- She likes to compare herself to her mother.
- We can't **compare dogs with** cats. (There are far more differences between them than there are similarities.)

## Common Mistakes in Usage of Verb with Prepositions

Below are some very common mistakes that candidates do in use of Prepositions :

- 1) Verbs After which No prepositions are used:
- **A)** Resemble: We do not use any preposition after the verb 'Resemble'. It means Resemble does not take a preposition before its object.
  - **Incorrect:** This painting resembles to that painting which we saw yesterday.
  - **Correct:** This painting resembles that painting which we saw yesterday.
  - Incorrect: The baby resembles with her mother.
  - **Correct:** The baby resembles her mother.
- **B) Enter:** We do not use any Prepositions after 'Enter'
  - Incorrect We entered **into** the compound.
  - Correct We entered the compound.

#### C) Discuss:

- Incorrect Let's discuss about your plans.
- Correct Let's discuss your plans.

#### D) Lack:

- Incorrect She lacks in tact.
- Correct -She lacks tact.

Same as these verbs, No prepositions are used with the verbs given below :

- Access
- Affect
- Contact
- Seek
- Reach
- Oppose
- Research
- Respect
- Obey
- **2) Write:** When **write** has no direct object, we put **to** before the indirect object.
  - Incorrect: He wrote me.
  - Correct: He wrote to me.
  - Incorrect: Write to me a letter.
  - Correct: Write me a letter.
- **3) Explain :** The verb explain is followed by direct object + preposition + indirect object.
  - Incorrect: I shall explain them this.
  - Correct: I shall explain this to them.
- **4) Invite:** Invite takes the preposition to after it.
  - Incorrect: He invited me in dinner.
  - Correct: He invited me to dinner.





- **5) Reach:** The verb reach does not take a preposition before its object.
  - Incorrect: He reached to the station.
  - Correct: He reached the station.
- **6) Ask**: Ask is usually followed by indirect object + direct object.
  - Incorrect: She did ask any question to him.
  - Correct: She did not ask him any question.

#### 7) Waste, spend

- Incorrect: We should not waste much time in small things of less importance.
- Correct: We should not waste much time on small things of less importance.
- Incorrect: He spent a lot of money in daughter's wedding.
- Correct: He spent a lot of money on his daughter's wedding.

## Common Errors in Use of Prepositions

Some of the most common mistakes in the use of prepositions :

- 1) The prepositions in and on are used to show position. To say where things are going, we use into and onto.
  - Incorrect: The ball rolled slowly in the goal.
  - Correct: The ball rolled slowly **into** the goal.
  - Incorrect: She ran in the room crying.
  - Correct: She ran **into** the room crying.
- **2)** We use **in** to say how soon something will happen. **Within** means 'inside' or 'not beyond'.
  - Incorrect: The train will arrive within five minutes.
  - Correct: The train will arrive in five minutes.
  - Incorrect: You need to complete this project in a month.
  - Correct : You need to complete this project within a month.
  - Incorrect: If you don't live by your income, you will have to pay huge debts.
  - Correct: If you don't live **within** your income, you will will have to pay huge debts.
- **3) Through** is used for movement in a three dimensional space.
  - Incorrect: The ball went **to** the window ad fell on the ground.
  - Correct: The ball went through the window and fell on the ground.

**4)** For Days, we use 'On', For Dates, we use 'On', For months we use, 'In', For seasons we use 'In', For particular time, we use 'At'. For morning and evening, we use 'In'. For night, we use 'At'.

**At:** at 7 o'clock; at midday; at dinner; at Christmas **In:** in the evening; in Easter week; in September; in (the) winter; in 1864; in the 20th century

**On:** on Friday; on April 1st; on Christmas Day

- Incorrect: He wrote the book in a month's time.
- Correct: He wrote the book in a month.
- Incorrect: We usually go and see Grandmother on Sunday.
- Correct: We usually go and see Grandmother on **Sundays.**
- **5)** Care for means 'like' or 'be fond of'. If you care about something, you feel that it is important or interesting.
  - Incorrect: I don't care for your opinion.
  - Correct: I don't care about your opinion.
- **6) 'Look at'** is used to to gaze in a specified direction. 'To Look into' is used to investigate something.
  - Incorrect: The manager has promised to look at the matter.
  - Correct: To manager has promised to look into the matter.
  - Incorrect: What are you looking in?
  - Correct: What are you **looking at**?
- **7)** Since is used for 'Point of Time' . From is used for 'Period of Time'.
  - Incorrect: It has been raining from Monday.
  - Correct: It has been raining **since Monday**.
- **8)** One of the major error that candidates do is use of with after 'speaking' -
  - Incorrect: Who is the girl you were speaking with?
  - Correct: Who is the girl you were speaking to?

## Relations indicated by use of prepositions

We use Prepositions to show various kinds of relations among the words in sentences. Some of the most important among them are as mentioned below:

#### 1) Time

- You must return **before** sunset.
- Wait till tomorrow.
- We waited for hours.



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#### 2) Place

- She ran **across** the road
- The boy fell among the bushes
- The thief was hiding **behind** the almirah.

#### 3) Reason and Purpose

- She died **of** malaria.
- He trembled with anger.
- Smoking is injurious to health.

#### 4) Method and manner

The letter came by post.

- He cut the cake with a knife.
- They succeeded by hard work.

#### 5) Possession

- He is a man of principles.
- Mumbai is the financial capital **of** India.
- I saw a boy with red hair.

#### 6) Direction and Motion

- He fell **into** the well.
- She walked **towards** the market.

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