

English Grammar - Upper-Intermediate

LECTURE 2. System of Tenses

English Grammar - Upper-Intermediate

If you are students in this class, you understand a lot about English tenses, and you can use them.

But let's look at English tenses as a system.

System of Tenses

There are 4 groups of tenses in English.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Simple tenses | Express an action that happen regularly, sometimes, often, always | - a fact |
| Continuous tenses (Progressive) | Express an action in progress at a particular moment (moment is time expression or another action) The action isn't completed | - in progress at a particular moment |
| Perfect tenses | Express an action that has already finished by a particular moment (moment is time expression or another action) | - has already finished by a particular moment (there is the result of this action) |
| Perfect Continuous tenses (Progressive) | Express how long the action lasted | - how long it lasted before a particular moment |

Each group includes **past, present, and future**

System of Tenses

Each group includes

Past, Present, and Future

And the first three

– Simple, Continuous, and Perfect -
are used

in **Active** and **Passive**

System of Tenses

| ACTIVE | PASSIVE |
|---|--|
| Simple Tenses | |
| Past V-ed (2 форма) Present to V (-s в 3-ем лице ед. числа) Future will ('ll) V | <u>be + V-ed (3 форма)</u> past present future was/were am will be is are |
| Continuous Tenses | |
| <u>be + V-ing</u> past present future was/were am will be is are | <u>be + being + V-ed (3 форма)</u> past present future was/were am (нет) is are |
| Perfect Tenses | |
| <u>have + V-ed (3 форма)</u> past present future had have/ will have has | <u>have + been + V-ed (3 форма)</u> past present future had have/ will have has |
| Perfect Continuous Tenses | |
| <u>have + been + V-ing</u> past present future had have/ will have has | |

System of Tenses

Here is a table with examples of sentences in all these tenses.

System of Tenses

| Tenses | ACTIVE | PASSIVE |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Past Simple | Mary <i>helped</i> him yesterday. Mary <i>did not help</i> him yesterday. <i>Did</i> Mary <i>help</i> him yesterday? He <i>was</i> a student last year. He <i>was not</i> a student last year. <i>Was</i> he a student last year? | He <i>was helped</i> yesterday. He <i>was not helped</i> yesterday. <i>Was</i> he <i>helped</i> yesterday? |
| Present Simple | Mary <i>helps</i> him this time. Mary <i>does not help</i> him this time. <i>Does</i> Mary <i>help</i> him this time? He <i>is</i> a student this year. He <i>is not</i> a student this year. <i>Is</i> he a student this year? | He <i>is helped</i> this time. He <i>is not helped</i> this time. <i>Is</i> he <i>helped</i> this time? |
| Future Simple | Mary <i>will help</i> him next time. Mary <i>will not help</i> him next time. <i>Will</i> Mary <i>help</i> him next time? | He <i>will be helped</i> next time. He <i>will not be helped</i> next time. <i>Will</i> he <i>be helped</i> next time? |

System of Tenses

| Tenses | ACTIVE | PASSIVE |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Past Continuous | <p>Mary <i>was helping</i> him when I saw them.</p> <p>Mary <i>wasn't helping</i> him when I saw them.</p> <p><i>Was</i> Mary <i>helping</i> him when you saw them?</p> | <p>He <i>was being helped</i> when I saw him.</p> <p>He <i>was not being helped</i> when I saw him</p> <p><i>Was</i> he <i>being helped</i> when you saw him?</p> |
| Present Continuous | <p>Mary <i>is helping</i> him right now.</p> <p>Mary <i>is not helping</i> him right now.</p> <p><i>Is</i> Mary <i>helping</i> him right now?</p> | <p>He <i>is being helped</i> right now.</p> <p>He <i>is not being helped</i> right now.</p> <p><i>Is</i> he <i>being helped</i> right now?</p> |
| Future Continuous | <p>Mary <i>will be helping</i> him when you come.</p> <p>Mary <i>will not be helping</i> him when you come.</p> <p><i>Will</i> Mary <i>be helping</i> him when I come</p> | HET |

System of Tenses

| Tenses | ACTIVE | PASSIVE |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Past Perfect | <p>Mary <i>had helped</i> him by the time I saw them.</p> <p>Mary <i>had not helped</i> him by the time I saw them.</p> <p><i>Had</i> Mary <i>helped</i> him by the time you saw them?</p> | <p>He <i>had been helped</i> by the time I saw him.</p> <p>He <i>had not been helped</i> by the time I saw him.</p> <p><i>Had</i> he <i>been helped</i> by the time you saw him?</p> |
| Present Perfect | <p>Mary <i>has</i> already <i>helped</i> him.</p> <p>Mary <i>has not helped</i> him yet.</p> <p><i>Has</i> Mary already <i>helped</i> him?</p> | <p>He <i>has</i> just <i>been helped</i>.</p> <p>He <i>has not been helped</i> yet.</p> <p><i>Has</i> he <i>been</i> already <i>helped</i>?</p> |
| Future Perfect | <p>Mary <i>will have helped</i> him by the time you come.</p> <p>Mary <i>will not have helped</i> him by the time you come.</p> <p><i>Will</i> Mary <i>have helped</i> him by the time I come?</p> | <p>He <i>will have been helped</i> by the time you come.</p> <p>He <i>will not have been helped</i> by the time you come.</p> <p><i>Will</i> he <i>have been helped</i> by the time I come?</p> |

System of Tenses

| Tenses | ACTIVE | PASSIVE |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------|
| Past Perfect Continuous | Mary <i>had been helping</i> him for two hours when I saw them. Mary <i>had not been helping</i> him for two hours when I saw them. <i>Had</i> Mary <i>been helping</i> him for two hours when you saw them? | NO |
| Present Perfect Continuous | Mary <i>has been helping</i> him for a long time. Mary <i>has not been helping</i> him for a long time. <i>Has</i> Mary <i>been helping</i> him for a long time? | NO |
| Future Perfect Continuous | Mary <i>will have been helping</i> him for five hours when you come. Mary <i>will not have been helping</i> him for five hours when you come. <i>Will</i> Mary <i>have been helping</i> him for five hours when I come? | NO |

Contracted forms of auxiliary verbs

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| is not | = isn't |
| am not | = 'm not |
| are not | = aren't |
| was not | = wasn't |
| were not | = weren't |
| will not | = won't |
| did not | = didn't |
| do not | = don't |
| does not | = doesn't |
| have not | = haven't |
| has not | = hasn't |
| had not | = hadn't |

System of Tenses

We will continue speaking about some special cases of tense usage in our next lecture.