

Verb Tenses and Moods

Verb Tenses & Moods – Study Notes

1. Overview

Aspect	Definition	Why It Matters
Tense	Shows when an action or state occurs (past, present, future).	Places the event on a timeline.
Mood	Shows the attitude of the speaker toward the action (reality, possibility, command, etc.).	Indicates certainty, doubt, obligation, or desire.

2. Verb Tenses (English)

2.1 Simple Tenses

Tense	Form	Example	Typical Use
Simple Present	base verb (?s for 3rd?person singular)	<i>She writes.</i>	Regular habits, general truths.
Simple Past	verb + ?ed (regular) / irregular form	<i>They walked.</i>	Completed actions in the past.
Simple Future	will + base verb (or “be going to”)	<i>I will call.</i>	Future intention or prediction.

2.2 Progressive (Continuous) Tenses

Tense	Form	Example	Typical Use
Present Progressive	am/is/are + ?ing	<i>He is reading.</i>	Ongoing action now.
Past Progressive	was/were + ?ing	<i>We were dancing.</i>	Action in progress at a past moment.
Future Progressive	will be + ?ing	<i>She will be traveling.</i>	Ongoing action at a future time.

2.3 Perfect Tenses

Verb Tenses and Moods

Tense	Form	Example	Typical Use
Present Perfect	have/has + past? participle	<i>I have finished.</i>	Action completed before now with relevance to the present.
Past Perfect	had + past? participle	<i>They had left.</i>	Action completed before another past event .
Future Perfect	will have + past? participle	<i>By June, we will have moved.</i>	Action that will be completed before a future point .

2.4 Perfect?Progressive Tenses

Tense	Form	Example	Typical Use
Present Perfect Progressive	have/has been + ? ing	<i>She has been studying.</i>	Action started in the past, continues to now, emphasizing duration.
Past Perfect Progressive	had been + ? ing	<i>He had been waiting.</i>	Ongoing action that ended before another past event.
Future Perfect Progressive	will have been + ? ing	<i>By 5?p.m. I will have been working.</i>	Ongoing action that will have lasted up to a future point.

3. Verb Moods

Mood	Primary Function	Typical Markers
Indicative	States facts or asks questions; assumes reality.	Simple verb forms, no special auxiliary.
Imperative	Issues commands, requests, or instructions.	Base verb (subject "you" is implied).
Subjunctive	Expresses wishes, hypotheticals, demands, or conditions contrary to fact.	<i>If I were you..., I suggest that he go.</i>

**Conditional