



ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Lesson 1



VERB TENSE OVERVIEW WITH EXAMPLES

| Simple Present | Simple Past | Simple Future |
|---|--|--|
| I <u>study</u> English everyday. | Two years ago, I <u>studied</u> English in England. | I <u>am going to</u> study English next year. If you are having problems, I <u>will</u> help you study English. |
| Present Continuous | Past Continuous | Future Continuous |
| I <u>am studying</u> English now. | I <u>was studying</u> English when you called yesterday. | I <u>will be studying</u> English when you arrive tonight. |
| Present Perfect | Past Perfect | Future Perfect |
| I <u>have studied</u> English in several different countries. | I <u>had studied</u> a little English before I moved to the U.S. | I <u>will have studied</u> every tense by the time I finish this course. |
| Present Perfect Continuous | Past Perfect Continuous | Future Perfect Continuous |
| I <u>have been studying</u> English for five years. | I <u>had been studying</u> English for five years before I moved to the U.S. | I <u>will have been studying</u> English for over two hours by the time you arrive. |



Verb Tenses Tutorial Exercise 1

Simple Present / Present Continuous

1. Every Monday, Sally (drive) her kids to football practice.
2. Usually, I (work) as a secretary at ABT, but this summer I (study) French at a language school in Paris. That is why I am in Paris.
3. Shhhhh! Be quiet! John (sleep) 4. Don't forget to take your umbrella. It (rain)
5. I hate living in Seattle because it (rain, always) 6. I'm sorry I can't hear what you (say) because everybody (talk) so loudly.
7. Justin (write, currently) a book about his adventures in Tibet. I hope he can find a good publisher when he is finished.
8. Do you want to come over for dinner tonight. Oh, I'm sorry, I can't. I (go) to a movie tonight with some friends.
9. The business cards (be, normally) printed by a company in New York. Their prices (be) inexpensive, yet the quality of their work is quite good.
10. This delicious chocolate (be) made by a small chocolatier in Zurich, Switzerland.



Verb Tenses Tutorial Exercise 2

Simple Present / Present Continuous

Today (be) the second day of my trek around Mount Annapurna. I am exhausted and my legs (shake); I just hope I am able to complete the trek. My feet (kill, really)..... me and my toes (bleed), but I (want, still)..... to continue. Nepal is a fascinating country, but I have a great deal to learn. Everything (be) so different, and I (try)..... to adapt to the new way of life here. I (learn)..... a little bit of the language to make communication easier; unfortunately, I (learn, not)..... foreign languages quickly. Although I (understand, not) much yet, I believe that I (improve, gradually)

I (travel, currently) with Liam, a student from Leeds University in England. He (be) a nice guy, but impatient. He (walk, always) ahead of me and (complain)..... that I am too slow. I (do) my best to keep up with him, but he is younger and stronger than I am. Maybe, I am just feeling sorry for myself because I am getting old.

Right now, Liam (sit)..... with the owner of the inn. They (discuss)..... the differences between life in England and life in Nepal. I (know, not) the real name of the owner, but everybody (call, just)..... him Tam. Tam (speak) English very well and he (try) to teach Liam some words in Nepali. Every time Tam (say)..... a new word, Liam (try)..... to repeat it. Unfortunately, Liam (seem, also)..... to have difficulty learning foreign languages. I just hope we don't get lost and have to ask for directions.



Verb Tenses Tutorial Exercise 3

Simple Past / Past Continuous

1. A: What (you, do) when the accident occurred?
B: I (try) to change a light bulb that had burnt out.
2. After I (find) the wallet full of money, I (go, immediately) to the police and (turn) it in.
3. The doctor (say) that Tom (be) too sick to go to work and that he (need) to stay at home for a couple of days.
4. Sebastian (arrive) at Susan's house a little before 9:00 pm, but she (be, not) there. She (study, at the library) for her final examination in French.
5. Sandy is in the living room watching television. At this time yesterday, she (watch, also) television. That's all she ever does!
6. A: I (call) you last night after dinner, but you (be, not) there. Where were you?
B: I (work) out at the fitness center.
7. When I (walk) into the busy office, the secretary (talk) on the phone with a customer, several clerks (work, busily) at their desks, and two managers (discuss, quietly) methods to improve customer service.



8. I (watch) a mystery movie on T.V. when the electricity went out. Now I am never going to find out how the movie ends.
9. Sharon (be) in the room when John (tell)..... me what had happened, but she didn't hear anything because she (listen, not)
10. It's strange that you (call) because I (think, just)about you.
11. The Titanic (cross) the Atlantic when it (strike)an iceberg.
12. When I entered the bazaar, a couple of merchants (bargain, busily) and (try) to sell their goods to naive tourists who (hunt) for souvenirs. Some young boys (lead) their donkeys through the narrow streets on their way home. A couple of men (argue)over the price of a leather belt. I (walk) over to a man who (sell) fruit and (buy) a banana.
13. The firemen (rescue) the old woman who (be)trapped on the third floor of the burning building.
14. She was so annoying! She (leave, always) her dirty dishes in the sink. I think she (expect, actually) me to do them for her.
15. Samantha (live) in Berlin for more than two years. In fact, she (live) there when the Berlin wall came down.



Simple Past / Past Continuous

Last night, while I was doing my homework, Angela (call) She said she (call)..... me on her cell phone from her biology classroom at UCLA. I asked her if she (wait) for class, but she said that the professor was at the front of the hall lecturing while she (talk) to me. I couldn't believe she (make) a phone call during the lecture. I asked what was going on.

She said her biology professor was so boring that several of the students (sleep, actually) in class. Some of the students (talk) about their plans for the weekend and the student next to her (draw) a picture of a horse. When Angela (tell)me she was not satisfied with the class, I (mention) that my biology professor was quite good and (sugest)..... that she switch to my class. While we were talking, I (hear)..... her professor yell, "Miss, are you making a phone call?" Suddenly, the line went dead. I (hang)..... up the phone and went to the kitchen to make dinner. As I (cut) vegetables for a salad, the phone rang once again. It (be) Angela, but this time she (not sit).....in class.



Verb Tenses Tutorial Exercise 5

Simple Past / Present Perfect

1.A: Did you like the movie "Star Wars"?

B: I don't know. I (see, never) that movie.

2. Sam (arrive) in San Diego a week ago.

3. My best friend and I (know) each other for over fifteen years. We still get together once a week.

4. Stinson is a fantastic writer. He (write) ten very creative short stories in the last year.

One day, he'll be as famous as Hemingway.

5. I (have, not) this much fun since I (be) a kid.

6. Things (change) a great deal at Coltech, Inc. When we first (start) working here three years ago, the company (have, only) six employees. Since then, we (expand)..... to include more than 2000 full-time workers.

7. I (tell) him to stay on the path while he was hiking, but he (wander) off into the forest and (be) bitten by a snake.

8. Listen Donna, I don't care if you (miss) the bus this morning. You (be) late to work too many times. You are fired!



9. Sam is from Colorado, which is hundreds of miles from the coast, so he (see, never) the ocean. He should come with us to Miami.

10. How sad! George (dream) of going to California before died, but he didn't make it. He (see, never) the ocean.

11. In the last hundred years, traveling (become) much easier and very comfortable. In the 19th century, it (take) two or three months to cross North America by covered wagon. The trip (be)very rough and often dangerous. Things (change)..... a great deal in the last hundred and fifty years. Now you can fly from New York to Los Angeles in a matter of hours.

12. Jonny, I can't believe how much you (change)..... since the last time I (see)..... you. You (grow) at least a foot!

13. This tree (be)..... planted by the settlers who (found)..... our city over four hundred years ago.

14. This mountain (be, never) climbed by anyone. Several mountaineers (try) to reach the top, but nobody (succeed, ever) The climb is extremely difficult and many people (die) trying to reach the summit.

15. I (visit, never) Africa, but I (travel) to South America several times. The last time I (go)..... to South America, I (visit) Brazil and Peru. I (spend)..... two weeks in the Amazon, (hike) for a week near Machu Picchu, and (fly) over the Nazca Lines.

