

Year 6 Grammar Revision

Tenses



Simple Present Tense: The Rules

In English, there are **two basic tenses** - **present** and **past** tense.

The tense shows the **timing of an action** and **changes the verb** within a sentence.

Simple present tense sentences show an action **happening right now** and use the infinitive (simplest) form of a verb.

I **play**.

We **play**.

You **play**.

They **play**.

He **plays**.

She **plays**.

When referring to the **third person**, the **present tense** (infinitive) verb has an added **-s**. This only applies to **regular verbs**.

Simple Past Tense: The Rules

Within **simple past tense**, the action has already **happened** and **been completed**.

I **played**.

We **played**.

You **played**.

They **played**.

He **played**.

She **played**.

Regular past tense verbs have **-ed** added to the infinitive no matter who completed the action.

Progressive Tense: The Rules

The progressive tense (sometimes called continuous tense) usually describes verbs and events that are ongoing at a particular point in time. It is formed by combining the verb's present participle (by adding **-ing**) with a form of the verb 'to be'.

The mermaid **is hiding** behind the treasure chest.

In **present progressive** sentences, we use **is**, **am** or **are** before the **-ing verb**. In this present progressive sentence, the mermaid is still hiding.

The Gingerbread Man **was running** as he was being chased.

In past progressive sentences, we use **was** or **were** before the **-ing verb**. **Past progressive** sentences usually show an ongoing action while something else was happening too.

Perfect Tense: The Rules

The **perfect tense** describe actions that are **completed over a period of time**. It is formed by combining the **verb's past participle (usually by adding -ed or -en)** with a form of the **auxiliary verb 'to have.'**

The chef **has baked** lots of loaves.

In **present perfect** sentences, we use **has** or **have** before the **past participle**. In this present perfect sentence, the chef has baked loaves over a period of time.

The chameleon **had changed** colour before hiding from its predator.

In **past perfect** sentences, we use **had** before the **past participle**. In this past perfect sentence, the chameleon's action had finished before it hid.

Tenses: The Tricky Bits

The trickiest part of recognising and using different tenses is when you have to deal with **irregular verbs**. Lots of verbs don't change in a regular way to form their **past tense** versions or **past participles**, e.g.

The carrots **grew**.

Simple past tense using the irregular verb '**to grow**'.

The calf **is growing** taller everyday.

In this **present progressive sentence**, The present participle '**growing**' is used after the auxiliary verb '**is**'.

The atmosphere **had grown** since the goal.

Simple past tense using the irregular verb '**to grow**'.

Tenses Quiz: Question 1

Tick which sentence is written in the **past progressive tense**.

Tick one.

After Polly finished her book, she swapped it.



Digger was burying his bone in the garden.



The baby zebra is learning to walk.



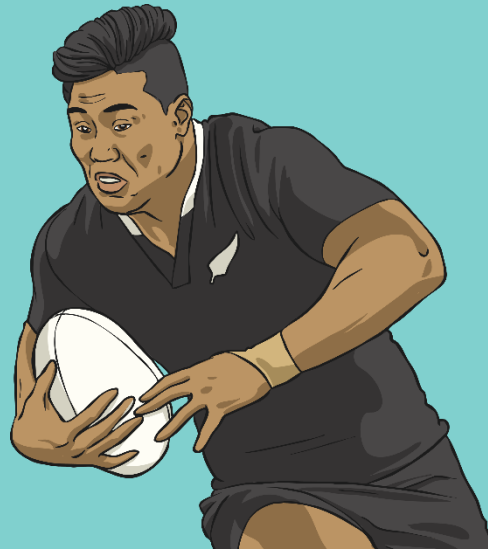
Since falling, Grandad had found it difficult to walk.



Question 2

Circle (by clicking on the word) the **verb form** that is in the **present perfect** in the passage below.

Bradley loves rugby and has wanted to be a professional rugby player for years. He was hoping for match tickets and was delighted when his parents gave him some for his birthday this year.



Incorrect
Answer

Question 3

Complete each sentence by adding the correct **past participle** to these **past perfect** sentences (the first one is done for you).

Verb

eat

The boys had eaten their lunch.

sell

After a long time on the market, the house had sold .

freeze

After a few hours, the lollies had frozen in the freezer.

Are you feeling
confident
with tenses?

