

# ENGLISH TENSES

TENSES		FORMS (Affirmative - A/Negative - N Question - Q)	USE	TIME PHRASES
INDEFINITE (SIMPLE)	PRESENT	<p><b>A:</b> I work. He/she/it works. You/we/they work.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I do not (don't) work. He/she/it does not (doesn't) work. You/we/they do not (don't) work.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Do I work? Does he/she/it work? Do you/we/they work?</p>	<p><b>1-to talk about general truth and permanent actions(facts):</b> <i>The Earth rotates round its axis.</i> <i>It rains a lot in autumn.</i> <i>I speak English and French.</i></p> <p><b>2-to talk about repeated, customary actions:</b> <i>He gets up at 8 o'clock every morning.</i> <i>They never listen to their teacher.</i></p> <p><b>3-to talk about a planned future action (a timetable or schedule)</b> <i>The train leaves at 3 tomorrow.</i></p>	<p><i>always, every day/month/year</i> <i>never, often, normally,</i> <i>seldom,</i> <i>sometimes,</i> <i>usually, twice a week/day...,</i> <i>all the time</i></p>
	PAST	<p><b>Regular verbs + ed : worked, played,</b> <b>Irregular verbs – II column: went, ate</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> I worked /went. He/she/it worked/went. You/we/they worked/went .</p> <p><b>N:</b> I did not (didn't) work_/go. He/she/it did not (didn't) work_/go. You/we/they did not (didn't) work_/go.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Did I work_/go? Did he/she/it work_/go? Did you/we/they work_/go?</p>	<p><b>1-to talk about actions performed in the past (with finished time expressions):</b> <i>I met my friend yesterday.</i> <i>Did you go to the seaside last summer?</i></p> <p><b>2-to talk about a succession of past actions (stories):</b> <i>He opened the door, switched on the light and fed his cat.</i></p> <p><b>3- to talk about an action taking place in the middle of another action:</b> <i>He fell asleep while the teacher was explaining new grammar rules.</i></p>	<p><i>yesterday, 2 minutes/hours/ days/years ago,</i> <i>in 1970,</i> <i>the other day,</i> <i>last month/year/ week/ Sunday</i></p>
	FUTURE	<p><b>A:</b> I/we shall* / will work. He/she/it will work. You/they will work.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I/we shall not (shan't) * work will not (won't) work.</p> <p>He/she/it will not (won't) work. You/they will not (won't) work.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Shall/will I/we work? Will he/she/it work? Will you/they work?</p>	<p><b>1-to talk about future actions:</b> <i>I'll call you tomorrow.</i> <i>Mary will get a present next month.</i></p> <p><b>2-to predict the future (with probably, I expect..., I'm sure..., (I) think..., don't think, I wonder..., perhaps)</b> <i>I think it will rain tomorrow.</i> <i>Perhaps she'll be late.</i> <i>I don't think the exam will be very difficult.</i></p> <p><b>3- to express intention at the moment of decision:</b> <i>Do you like these shoes?</i> <i>- Yes, I'll buy them.</i></p> <p><b>4-in the 1<sup>st</sup> type of conditional sentences</b> <i>If the weather is fine, we'll go to the country</i></p>	<p><i>tomorrow,</i> <i>the day after tomorrow,</i> <i>tomorrow,</i> <i>one of these days,</i> <i>next week/month/ year etc.,</i> <i>soon,</i> <i>in the near future,</i> <i>some day,</i> <i>in two days/five minutes/a month etc.</i></p>

**\* NOTE!!!**

Shall is used mostly in the questions shall I...?/shall we...?

In spoken English we normally use I'll and we'll.



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CONTINUOUS (PROGRESSIVE)	PRESENT	<p><b>to be (am/is/are) + verb + -ing</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> I am (I'm) working. He/she/is is (he's) working. You/we/they are (we're) working.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I am not (I'm not) working. He/she/it is not (isn't) working. You/we/they/ are not (aren't) working.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Am I working? Is he/she/we working? Are you/we/they working?</p>	<p>1-to talk about actions that are happening now, at the moment of speaking: <i>Look! The boys are playing football. Hurry up! The train is coming.</i></p> <p>2- to talk about actions that are happening around now, but not exactly at the moment of speaking: <i>We are studying very hard these days. We have to prepare for our exams.</i></p> <p>3-to speak about what you have already arranged to do: <i>-What are you doing on Saturday? -I am meeting my friend at the station. She is arriving at 8 pm.</i></p>	<p>now, at the moment, at present; Look!, Listen! these days, this morning, today</p>
	PAST	<p><b>to be(was/were) + verb + -ing</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> I was working. He/she/it was working. You/we/they were working.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I was not (wasn't) working. He/she/it was not (wasn't) working. You/we/they were not (weren't) working.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Was I working? Was he/she/it working? Were you/we/they working?</p>	<p>1-to talk about a temporary action taking place at a given moment in the past: <i>What were you doing at 6 o'clock yesterday?</i></p> <p>2-two or more actions happening at the same time in the past: <i>She was cooking dinner and her kids were watching TV.</i></p> <p>3- action interrupted by another shorter action in the past: <i>I was working on computer when the telephone rang.</i></p> <p>4- background information in a story: <i>The sun was shining and the birds were singing...</i></p>	<p>at 6 o'clock yesterday, from 3 to 6 On Monday, when Mum came, while</p>
	FUTURE	<p><b>shall/will + be + verb + -ing</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> I/we shall* /will be working. He/she/it will be working. You/they will be working.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I/we shall not (shan't) *be working. will not (won't) be working.</p> <p>He/she/it will not (won't) be working. You/they will not (won't) be working.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Shall/will I/we be working? Will he/she/it be working? Will you/they be working?</p> <p><b>*NOTE!!!</b> Shall is used mostly in the questions shall I...?/shall we...? In spoken English we normally use I'll and we'll.</p>	<p>1- to talk about an action at a particular moment in the future. The action will start before that moment but it will not have finished at that moment: <i>I will be playing tennis at 10am tomorrow.</i> <i>This time on Sunday I'll be bathing in the sea.</i> <i>When you arrive, he will be waiting for you.</i></p>	<p>at 5 o'clock tomorrow, this time on Sunday, when I come</p>



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PRESENT	<p><b>have/has + participle II</b> - regular verbs +ed worked, asked -irregular verbs-III column gone, eaten</p> <p><b>A:</b> I/we/you/they <b>have</b> worked/gone. He/she/it <b>has</b> worked/gone.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I/we/you/they <b>have not (haven't)</b> worked/gone. He/she/it <b>has not (hasn't)</b> worked/gone.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>Have</b> I/we/you/they worked/gone? <b>Has</b> he/she/it worked/gone?</p>	<p>-is always connected with the present and the only thing which matters here is the result: the time when the action took place is of no importance: <i>I have lost my keys. I can't open the door.</i></p> <p>1-to talk about a completed action connected with the present: <i>I have seen this film and I can discuss it with you now.</i></p> <p>2-questions in the Present Perfect never start with <b>when</b>: <i>When did you see this film?</i></p> <p>3-with this morning/evening, today this week, this year (when the time periods are not finished at the time of speaking): <i>Have you called you mother today?</i></p>	<p>already, ever, just, never, not yet, so far, till now, up to now, of late, lately, recently; with for and since; with This is the first time ... this morning/evening, today, this week, this year</p>
	<p><b>had + participle II</b> - regular verbs +ed: worked, asked -irregular verbs-III column: gone, eaten</p> <p><b>A:</b> I/you/we/they <b>had</b> worked/gone. He/she/it <b>had</b> worked/gone.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I/we/you/we/they <b>had not (hadn't)</b> worked/gone. He/she it <b>had not (hadn't)</b> worked/gone.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Had I/you/we/they worked/gone? Had he/she/it worked/gone?</p>	<p>1-denotes an action completed before a certain moment in the past; it is <u>not used to denote a succession of actions</u> (Past Simple): <i>She has already finished her work when he came.</i> <b>But:</b> <i>When I wrote the letter, I posted it. (Past Simple – succession of actions)</i> <i>By the time the police arrived, he had already disappeared.</i></p> <p>2-with the conjunctions (hardly/scarcely/nearly/barely + when...) <i>I had hardly done it when they came.</i> <i>No sooner had they arrived than it started to rain.</i></p>	<p>when I entered, by 5 o'clock yesterday, (with the same adverbs as Present Perfect but in the past context); no sooner...than ...</p>
	<p><b>shall/will + have + participle II</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> I/we <b>shall* /will</b> have worked/gone. He/she/it <b>will</b> have worked/gone. You/they <b>will</b> have worked/gone.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I/we <b>shall not (shan't) * will not (won't)</b> have worked/gone.</p> <p>He/she/it <b>will not (won't)</b> You/they <b>will not (won't)</b> have worked/gone.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>Shall/will</b> I/we have worked/gone? <b>Will</b> he/she/it have worked/gone? <b>Will</b> you/they have worked/gone?</p>	<p>1-denotes an action completed before a definite moment in the future: <i>She will have finished this work by 2 o'clock tomorrow.</i> <i>The film will have already started by the time we come. Hurry up!</i></p>	<p>by this time tomorrow, by 2 o'clock tomorrow, when you come back</p>
FUTURE		<p><b>*NOTE!!!</b> Shall is used mostly in the questions shall I...?/shall we...? In spoken English we normally use I'll and we'll.</p>	



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PERFECT CONTINUOUS	PRESENT	<p><b>have/has + been + verb + -ing</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> I/we/you/they <b>have been</b> working. He/she/it <b>has been</b> working.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I/we/you/they <b>have not (haven't) been</b> working. He/she/it <b>has not (hasn't) been</b> working.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>Have</b> I/we/you/they <b>been</b> working? <b>Has</b> he/she/it <b>been</b> working?</p>	<p>1-to say how long things have been continuing up to now: <i>I've been learning <u>English</u> for six years.</i> <i>It's been raining <u>all day</u>.</i></p> <p>2-to say how we have been filling our time (up to now) <i>-Your hands are dirty.</i> <i>-I've been painting the walls.</i></p> <p><b>NOTE!!!</b> We don't use Present Perfect Cont. with <u>be, know, have</u> and other <u>non-progressive verbs</u>: <i>How long have you had your car? (Present Perfect)</i></p>	for, since; How long...?
	PAST	<p><b>had + been + verb + -ing</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> I/we/you/they <b>had been</b> working. He/she/it <b>had been</b> working.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I/we/you/they <b>had not (hadn't) been</b> working. He/she/it <b>had not (hadn't) been</b> working.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>Had</b> I/we/you/they <b>been</b> working? <b>Had</b> he/she/it <b>been</b> working?</p>	<p>1-denotes an action which began before a definite moment in the past, continued up to that moment and was still going on at the moment: <i>We could not go out because it <u>had been raining</u> for two hours.</i></p> <p>2-denotes an action which was no longer going on at a definite moment in the past, but which had been in progress not long before: <i>The baby's face was red and wet. He <u>had been</u> crying.</i></p>	since, for
	FUTURE	<p><b>shall/will + have + been + verb + -ing</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> I/we <b>shall/will</b> <sup>♦</sup> <b>have been</b> working. He/she/it <b>will</b> <b>have been</b> working. You/they <b>will</b> <b>have been</b> working.</p> <p><b>N:</b> I/we <b>shall not (shan't)</b> <sup>♦</sup> <b>have been</b> working. <b>will not (won't)</b></p> <p>He/she/it <b>will not (won't)</b> <b>have been</b> working. You/they <b>will not (won't)</b> <b>have been</b> working.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> <b>Shall/will</b> I/we <b>have been</b> working? <b>Will</b> he/she/it <b>have been</b> working? <b>Will</b> you/they <b>have been</b> working?</p>	<p>1-denotes an action which will begin before a definite moment in the future, will continue up to the moment and will be going on at that moment: <i>You <u>will have been waiting</u> for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.</i> <i>In the fall I <u>will have been</u> studying here <u>for</u> 2 years.</i> <i>He <u>will be</u> tired when he arrives. He <u>will have been</u> travelling <u>for</u> 24 hours.</i></p>	for

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## EXERCISES ON TENSES

### A) Put the verbs into present simple or present progressive tenses.

1. Mrs. Mbako's handbag.....very beautiful (**be**).
2. Sara usually.....(**put**) on back shoes but now she .....white sandals (**wear**).
3. The delinquent student.....to the cinema everyday (**go**).
4. Major Prophet DDC ALLO usually.....christians on Fridays. (**counsel**).
5. The Anglophone students of GBHS Toket .....their promotion exams already (**write**).

### B) Put the verbs into the past simple or past perfect tenses.

1. Before he.....(**wake up**),his mother .....breakfast (**already/prepare**).
2. We.....(**go**) to the party because our friends.....us (**invite**).
3. He.....(**hear**) the news .....(**go**) to the telephone and .....a friend (**call**).
4. It.....(**be**) cloudy for days before it.....to rain (**begin**).
5. The.....(**not/ know**) where to meet because nobody.....them (**tell**).
6. When she.....(**start**) learning English,she.....French (**already/learn**).
7. Before that day, we.....of travelling to Ambam (**never/think**).
8. Ngonou.....(**already/type**) two pages when her computer.....(**crash**).
9. I.....(**know**) him a long before I..... his family (**meet**).
10. By the time the doctor.....(**arrive**) at the patient.....(**die**).

### C) Put the verbs into simple past or past progressive tenses.

1. The receptionist.....(**welcome**) the guests and.....them to fill the form (**ask**).
2. The car.....(**break**) down and we.....to walk home (**have**).
3. Maghe.....(**turn**) off the light and.....(**go**) to bed.
4. The boys.....(**swim**) while the girls .....movies (**watch**).
5. While one group.....(**prepare**) dinner the others .....firewood (**fetch**).

### D) Put the verbs into the past simple or present perfect tenses.

1. I.....my homework (**just/finish**).
2. she.....never .....to Waza park (**go**).
3. I .....to Bakassi so far (**not/be**).
4. I can't take any pictures because I.....a new film yet (**not/buy**).
5. My brother.....in Liberia for five years now (**be**).

### E) Put the verbs into the simple future or future perfect tenses.

1. Tomorrow, I believe I .....work in my new company (**start**).
2. The students.....the school by the end of the period (**leave**).
3. By 3 o'clock , we.....our assignment (**finish**).
4. My friend.....better results at the end of this exams (**certainly/get**).
5. I think I.....my trip next weekend (**start**).
6. The teacher.....a test to his students next Friday (**probably/assign**).
7. He.....the error by the end of next weekend (**correct**).
8. The students of G.B.H.S Toket 2.....on holidays in June (**go**).
9. I hope they..... (**repair**) this road as we come back next summer.
10. In two months time, he .....(**finish**) his preliminary training and will be starting work.
11. I hope I..... (**pass**) my driving test by the end of next month.
12. He spends all his time planting trees.He said that by the end of next year, he.....  
(**plant**) 2000 stems.
13. Yes, I make jam everyweek.I..... (**make**) about 200 kilos by the end of summer.