2. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TENSES

2.1 Definition of tenses

Tenses is a grammatical category that locates a situation in time that indicates when the situation take place. Tenses are part of Grammar. Mastering tenses is very important because if we do not use appropriate tenses, it can make misunderstanding especially in written language. George (1980: 192) states that Tenses means time. However, it should be pointed out that time in relation to action is a concept that exists in the mind of the speaker, reader, or listener. Tenses, in actual usage, refers consistently only to grammatical form.

2.2 Kind of Tenses

Traditional English, tense can be devided into three main time periods: the present, past, and future. The basic pattern is referred to simple shapes. In each of these basic pattern can also be seen aspects of how the incident took place which is being lasts, over, or still in progress. When associated with mood tense is formed precisely in the real main patterns and the like which aspects in general pattern of tense as follows:

2.2.1 Simple Present Tense

The simple present tense of most verbs requires only an-s ending in the third person singular. This is true whether the subject is pronoun (he, she, it) or a Singular noun, the first-an second- person pronoun (I, we, you), the third- person (they), and plural nouns require no ending in the present tense of this sentences types:
I always help my friends. ( always = I help my friends all the time.)
He runs the fastest. (it is his habit run the fastest.)

They put salt the sidewalk after it snows. (this habit occurs after every snow.)

**a) Pattern:**

Positive: Subject + Infinitive + Object

Negative: Subject + Do/Does + Not + Infinitive + Object

Introgative: Do/Does + Subject + infinitive + Object?

**b) Function:**

Used question word (when, where, who, why, what, which, how), question word place before the auxiliary: do/does.

Example:

1) Does your father work here?.

Used to express habitual action:

1) We go to school everyday.

2) I usually get up at five o’clock every morning

Used to express the general truth

1) The sun rises in the east

2) The earth revolves around the sun

Used for a planned future action or series actions

1) I have a meeting next Wednesday at the time

2) We begin lesson next week.
Present continuous tense

Present continuous tense is a construction. It is made up of the auxiliary be + the- ing (present participle) form of the verb.

a) Pattern

Positive. Subject + is/am/are + Verbing + Object

- 'am' for subject 'I' for subject third singular, and 'are' for subject the other and third singular.

Negative Subject + is/am/are + not + Verbing + Object

Introspective Is/am/are + Subject + Verbing + Object?

b) Function

Used question word (when, where. Who, why, what, which, how), question word place before to be: is/am/are

Used to express an activity or state in progress or around the time of speaking

1) He is attending a meeting now
2) Listen! He is singing a good song

Used to express temporer action

1) I am studying geology at University of Colorado
2) The guests are staying in Ambarukmo Hotel

Used to express an action future that has planned

1) Setiawan is leaving for Singapore tomorrow
2) I am watching the movie tonight
Present perfect tense

The present perfect tense is a construction on made up it auxiliary have +
the past participle form of the main verb.

a) Pattern

Positive  $S + \text{have/has} + V_3 + O$

‘has’ use for subject the third singular, and ‘have’ use for other subject the third
singular.

Negative  $S + \text{have/has} + \text{Not} + V_3 + O$

Introgative  $\text{Have/has} + S + V_3 + O$?

b) Function

Used question word (when, where, who, why, what, which, how), question word
place before have/has.

Used to indicate an action took place at an indefinite time or over period:

1) We have already written our reports
2) Ratu has already read the entire book

Used to indicate an action still has relevance in the past, but still relevance in the
present:

1) I have already seen that movie
2) She has got her breakfast

Used in intransitive verb:

1) I have lived here since I was born
2) I have been a teacher since 1989.
Present perfect continuous tense

Present perfect tense is construction made up of have + been + the-ing (present participle) form of the main verb. If emphasizes or exaggerates the progressive nature of the action –throughout the period of time. This tense has nearly the same meaning as normal present perfect verbs. The difference is that we use the present perfect continuous when we want to stress that the action has continued for a long time.

a) Pattern

Positive. Subject + have/has + been + Verbing + Object

Negative. Subject + have/has + not + been + Verbing + Object

Introgative. Have/has + Subject + been + Verbing + Object?

b) Function

Used to express an action that started in the past and now still in progress and maybe relevance in present:

1) I have been living in Kuningan for 20 years.

2) Setiawan has been working in Bandung for three years

Used to express an action relevance in time but do not explained in Indonesian can be interpreted in phrase ‘still now’

1) I have been reading a book. (I am still reading it) ≠ differentiated with I have read book.
2.2.2 Simple Past Tense

Past Tense is to declare the events that have "Past". Past have not been here long so well, just past, is past. That's the emphasis. Maybe yesterday, an hour ago, two years ago, two centuries ago, and so on.

a) Pattern

Positive  Subject + Verb₂ + Object

Negative Subject + did + not + infinitive + Object

Introactive  Did + Subject + infinitive+ Object ?

b) Function

Use the Simple Past to express the idea that an action started and finished at a specific time in the past. Sometimes, the speaker may not actually mention the specific time, but they do have one specific time in mind.

Examples:

1) I saw a movie yesterday.

2) I didn't see a play yesterday.

3) Last year, I traveled to Japan.

We use the Simple Past to list a series of completed actions in the past. These actions happen 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and so on.

Examples:

1) I finished work, walked to the beach, and found a nice place to swim.
2) He **arrived** from the airport at 8:00, **checked** into the hotel at 9:00, and **met** the others at 10:00.

The Simple Past can be used with a duration which starts and stops in the past. A duration is a longer action often indicated by expressions such as: for two years, for five minutes, all day, all year, etc.

**Past Perfect Tense**

An **aspect** of the **verb** that designates an action which has been completed before another past action. Formed with the **auxiliary had** and the **past participle** of a verb, the past perfect indicates a time further back in the past than the **present perfect** or the simple **past tense**.

a) **Pattern**

**Positive Subject** + had + **Verb**₃ + **Object**

**Negative Subject** + had + **not** + **Verb**₃ + **Object**

**Introgative**  Had + **Subject** + **Verb**₃ + **Object**?

The Past Perfect expresses the idea that something occurred before another action in the past. It can also show that something happened before a specific time in the past.

Examples:

1) **I had** never **seen** such a beautiful beach before I went to Kauai.

2) I **did not have** any money because I **had lost** my wallet.

3) **Tony knew** Istanbul so well because he **had visited** the city several times.
With Non-Continuous Verbs and some non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Past Perfect to show that something started in the past and continued up until another action in the past.

Examples:

1) We **had had** that car for ten years before it broke down.

2) By the time Alex finished his studies, he **had been** in London for over eight years.

3) They felt bad about selling the house because they **had owned** it for more than forty years.

**Past Continuous Tense**

The past continuous tense is an important tense in English. We use it to say that somebody was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time but had not finished.

a) Pattern

**Positive** Subject + was/were + Verb-ing

**Negative** Subject + was/were + not + Verb-ing

**Introgative** Was/were + Subject + Verb-ing?

b) Function

The past continuous tense expresses action at a **particular moment** in the past. The action started before that moment but has not finished at that moment. For example, yesterday I watched a film on TV. The film started at 7pm and finished at 9pm.
When we use the past continuous tense, our listener usually knows or understands what time we are talking about. Look at these examples:

1) I was working at 10pm last night.
2) They were not playing football at 9am this morning.
3) What were you doing at 10pm last night?

We often use the past continuous tense to "set the scene" in stories. We use it to describe the background situation at the moment when the action begins. Often, the story starts with the past continuous tense and then moves into the simple past tense. Here is an example:

1) "James Bond was driving through town. It was raining. The wind was blowing hard.
   Nobody was walking in the streets. Suddenly, Bond saw the killer in a telephone box..."

We often use the past continuous tense with the simple past tense. We use the past continuous tense to express a long action. And we use the simple past tense to express a short action that happens in the middle of the long action. We can join the two ideas with when or while.
The Past Perfect continuous tense

The past perfect continuous is formed with the past perfect tense of the verb to be (= had been) + the present participle (–ing).

Example: I had been praying.

a) Pattern

Positive Subject + had + Verb-3

Negative Subject + had + not + Verb-3

Introgative Had + Subject + Verb-3?

b) Function

We use the Past Perfect Continuous to show that something started in the past and continued up until another time in the past. "For five minutes" and "for two weeks" are both durations which can be used with the Past Perfect Continuous. Notice that this is related to the Present Perfect Continuous; however, the duration does not continue until now, it stops before something else in the past.

Examples:

1) They had been talking for over an hour before Tony arrived.

2) She had been working at that company for three years when it went out of business.

3) How long had you been waiting to get on the bus?

Using the Past Perfect Continuous before another action in the past is a good way to show cause and effect.
Examples:

1) Jason was tired because he had been jogging.
2) Sam gained weight because he had been overeating.
3) Betty failed the final test because she had not been attending class.

2.2.3 The Simple Future Tense

Simple Future has two different forms in English: "will" and "be going to." Although the two forms can sometimes be used interchangeably, they often express two very different meanings. These different meanings might seem too abstract at first, but with time and practice, the differences will become clear.

Both "will" and "be going to" refer to a specific time in the future.

a) Pattern

Positive       S + will/shall + V₁           or   S + is/am/are + going to + V₁
Negative       will/shall + not + V₁        or  S + is/am/are + going to + V₁
Introgative    Will/shall + S + V₁         or  Is/am/are + S + going to + V₁?

b) Function

The simple future tense is often called will, because we make the simple future tense with the modal auxiliary will.

We use the simple future tense when there is no plan or decision to do something before we speak. We make the decision spontaneously at the time of speaking.

Look at these examples:

1) Hold on. I'll get a pen.
2) We **will see** what we can do to help you.

3) Maybe we'll **stay in** and **watch** television tonight.

In these examples, we had no firm plan before speaking. The decision is made **at the time of speaking**.

We often use the simple future tense with the verb **to think** before it:

1) I **think** I'll go to the gym tomorrow.

2) I **think** I will have a holiday next year.

3) I **don't think** I'll buy that car.

We often use the simple future tense to make a prediction about the future. Again, there is no firm plan. We are saying **what we think will happen**. Here are some examples:

1) It **will rain** tomorrow.

2) People **won't go** to Jupiter before the 22nd century.

3) Who do you think **will get** the job?

When the main verb is **be**, we can use the simple future tense even if we have a firm plan or decision before speaking. Examples:

1) I'll **be** in London tomorrow.

2) I'm going shopping. I **won't be** very long.

3) **Will** you **be** at work tomorrow.
future Perfect Tense

The future perfect tense is used to describe an event that is expected or planned to happen before another event in the future. It is a grammatical combination of the future tense, or other marking of future time, and the perfect, itself a combination of tense and aspect.

In English, the tense is formed thus:

```
shall,
subject + Have + past participle
will
```

*I Shall Have gone.*

The future perfect tense is quite an easy tense to understand and use. The future perfect tense talks about the past in the future.

The structure of the future perfect tense is:

a) Pattern

Positive  Subject + will/shall + have + Verb3
Negative Subject + will/shall + not + Verb3
Introgative Will/shall + Subject + have + Verb3

b) Function

The future perfect tense expresses action in the future before another action in the future. This is the past in the future. For example:
1) The train will leave the station at 9am. You will arrive at the station at 9.15am. When you arrive, the train will have left.

2) You can call me at work at 8am. I will have arrived at the office by 8.

**Future continuous Tense**

Future Continuous has two different forms: "will be doing " and "be going to be doing." Unlike Simple Future forms, Future Continuous forms are usually interchangeable.

Basic form
Subject + WILL + BE + Verb (continuous form)

    a) Pattern

Positive Subject + will/shall + be Verb_ing

Negative Subject + will/shall + not + be + Verb_ing

Introgative Will/shall + Subject + be + Verb_ing?

b) Function

FORM Future Continuous with "Will"

[will be + present participle]

Examples:

1) You **will be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.

2) **Will** you **be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight?

3) You **will not be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight
FORM Future Continuous with "Be Going To "

[am/is/are + going to be + present participle]

Examples:

1) You **are going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.
2) **Are** you **going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight?
3) You **are not going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.

REMEMBER: It is possible to use either "will" or "be going to" to create the Future Continuous with little difference in meaning.

Use the Future Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the future will be interrupted by a shorter action in the future. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

Examples:

1) I **will be watching** TV when she **arrives** tonight.
2) I **will be waiting** for you when your bus **arrives**.

Future Continuous is interrupted by a short action in the future. In addition to using short actions as interruptions, you can also use a specific time as an interruption.

Examples:
1) Tonight at 6 PM, I am going to be eating dinner.

*I will be in the process of eating dinner.*

2) At midnight tonight, we will still be driving through the desert.

*We will be in the process of driving through the desert.*

**Future Perfect Continuous Tense**

Future Perfect Continuous has two different forms: "will have been doing" and "be going to have been doing." Unlike **Simple Future** forms, Future Perfect Continuous forms are usually interchangeable.

The structure of the future perfect continuous tense is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>auxiliary verb WILL</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>auxiliary verb HAVE</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>auxiliary verb BE</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>main verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Invariable</td>
<td></td>
<td>invariable</td>
<td></td>
<td>past participle</td>
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<td>present participle</td>
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<td>Will</td>
<td></td>
<td>Have</td>
<td></td>
<td>Been</td>
<td></td>
<td>base + ing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For negative sentences in the future perfect continuous tense, we insert **not** between **will** and **have**. For question sentences, we exchange the **subject** and **will**.

Look at these example sentences with the future perfect continuous tense:

**Future Perfect Continuous with "Will"**

[will have been + present participle]
Examples:

1) You **will have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.

2) **Will** you **have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives?

**Future Perfect Continuous with "Be Going To"**

[am/is/are + going to have been + present participle]

Examples:

1) You **are going to have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.

2) **Are** you **going to have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives?

NOTE: It is possible to use either "will" or "be going to" to create the Future Perfect Continuous with little or no difference in meaning.