**Name :**

**Student Number :**

**Class/Major : /**

**English Class**

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**PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**

If you want to describe when things are taking place, it’s the verb in your sentence that helps you. You can change when an action happens by changing the “tense” of the verb.

**Present Tense**

There are two main versions of the present tense. The simple present tense uses the main verb without “to” at the beginning:

I play tennis.

You play tennis.

He/she/it plays tennis.

We play tennis.

You play tennis.

They play tennis.

The simple present tense can be used for all sorts of things, such as facts (you write neatly), and to talk about things that you do regularly (I play tennis).

**Keep Going**

To say that something is happening right now, you need the present continuous tense. This tells you that the action is taking place right now and continuing.

You use it all the time by adding an auxiliary verb – in this case, the present form of the verb to be (am,is,are) – followed by what is called the present participle of the verb you are using. The present participle is always made from the main verb with “-ing” added on the end:

I am playing tennis.

You are playing tennis.

He/she/it is playing tennis.

You are playing tennis.

They are playing tennis.

**Past Tense**

To move the action in your sentence into the past, you can use the simple past tense.

Do this by adding what is called the past participle, usually “-ed,” to the end of the main verb:

I/You/We/They played tennis.

He/she/it played tennis.

**Keep Going in the Past**

You can also use the verb *to be* in its past (was or were) as an auxiliary verb, together with an “-ing” verb. This makes the past continuous tense, which tells you that something took place over a period of time.

I was playing tennis.

You were playing tennis.

He/she/it was playing tennis.

We were playing tennis.

You were playing tennis.

They were playing tennis.

**Future Tense**

Although there isn’t future participle, as there is for the present and past tense, there are still lots of ways to indicate that the action you are speaking or writing about is in the future.

One of the most common ways to indicate the future tense is to use the auxiliary verb shall or will, followed by another verb-play, for instance. Traditionally, you should se shall for I and we, and will for all the other people, like this:

I/We shall play.

You/They will play.

He/she/it will play.

**Keep Going in the Future**

You can indicate a continuous future tense using the verb to be as an auxiliary verb, just as you would in the present and past tenses. This tells you that something is taking place over a period of time in the future:

I shall be playing.

You will be playing.

He/she/it will be playing.

We shall be playing.

You will be playing.

They will be playing.

**Future Tense Extra**

There are lots of other ways you can talk about the future, too. All you need is a selection of auxiliary verbs to help things along. For example:

I am going to buy shoes tomorrow.

You will win the race.

It will be sunny tomorrow.

We shall be going to school tomorrow.

You are coming with us tonight.

They will be here in a minute.

**ALL ABOUT ADVERBS**

In the same way that an adjective gives extra information about a noun, an adverbs gives you more detail about a verb.

Take this sentence:

I eat.

This is fine on its own, but everyone eats, don’t they? To give more detail, use an adverb to make it clear just how you eat:

I eat quickly.

I eat greedily.

I eat slowly.

Each of the following words is an adverb, and as you can see, a lot of adverbs end in “ly”:

Angrily jerkily sensibly

Bumpily kindly truthfully

Cautiously loyally unhelpfully

Dreamily mischievously viciously

Energetically noisily weakly

Furiously oddly xenophobically

Gingerly perversely yeomanly

Happily quietly zanily

Idiotically rashly

Adapted from: Stride, Lottie, 2011*. Write (Or Is That ‘Right’?) Every Time – Cool Ways to Improve Your English*

**EXERCISE**

Note: you will learn better if you put adverb in each sentence that you make (e.g. My phone updates its data *automatically* when connected to wifi.).

* Construct 5 Sentences of Simple Present Tense.
1. I drink a cup of coffee.
2. She ……………………………………………………………………………
3. He …………………………………………………………………………….
4. They …………………………………………………………………………
5. …………………………………………………………………………………..
* Construct 5 Sentences of Present Continuous Tense.
1. I am drinking a cup of coffee
2. She …………………………………………………………………………….
3. He …………………………………………………………………………….
4. They …………………………………………………………………………
5. …………………………………………………………………………………..
* Construct 5 Sentences of Simple Past Tense.
1. I drunk a cup of coffee.
2. She …………………………………………………………………………….
3. He ……………………………………………………………………………..
4. They ………………………………………………………………………….
5. …………………………………………………………………………………….
* Construct 5 Sentences of Past Continuous Tense.
1. I was drinking a cup of coffee.
2. She …………………………………………………………………………….
3. He ………………………………………………………………………………
4. They ………………………………………………………………………….
5. ……………………………………………………………………………………
* Construct 5 Sentences of Future Tense.
1. I will drink a cup of coffee.
2. She ……………………………………………………………………………..
3. He ……………………………………………………………………………….
4. They ……………………………………………………………………………
5. ……………………………………………………………………………………..