LESSON :2

GRAMMAR: TENSE

What is Tense?

I *write* this letter to thank you. (A Verb that refers to present time is said to be **Present Tense**)

I *wrote* the letter in his presence. (A Verb that refers to past time is said to be **Past Tense**)

I *shall write* the letter tomorrow. (A Verb that refers to future time is said to be **Future Tense**)

The Tense of the Verb shows the time of action or event

Present Tense

	Singular number	Plural Number
1st Person	I love	We love
2nd Person	You love	You love
3rd Person	He/She/It loves	They love

Past Tense

	Singular number	Plural Number
1st Person	I loved	We loved
2nd Person	You loved	You loved
3rd Person	He/She/It loved	They loved

Future Tense

	Singular number	Plural Number
1st Person	I Shall/Will love	We shall/Will love
2nd Person	You will love	You will love
3rd Person	He/She/It will love	They will love

V1	***V2***	***V3***	***V4***	***V5***
Love	Loved	Loved	Loving	Loves

I love	Simple Present	Present time, present tense
I am loving	Present Continuous	Action is still going on at the time of speaking
I have loved	Present Perfect	Action is complete at the time of speaking
I have been loving	Present perfect continuous	Action is going on ,not complete at the present moment

V1	***V2***	***V3***	***V4***	***V5***
Love	Loved	Loved	Loving	Loves

I loved	Simple Past	Past time, past tense
I was loving	Past Continuous	Action going on at some time in past
I had loved	Past Perfect	Action was complete at the time of speaking
I had been loving	Past perfect continuous	Action began before a certain point in the past and continued until that time.
I shall/will love	Simple future	Future time, future tense.
I shall/will be loving	Future Continuous	Action will be going on at a time in future.
I shall /will have loved	Future Perfect	Action that will be completed by a certain future time.
I shall have been loving	Future perfect continuous	Action will be in progress over a period of time that will end in future. This tense is not very common.

So we may now define Tense as a form of Verb which shows the ***time*** and the ***state*** of an action or event

Lets try now…….

V1	***V2***	***V3***	***V4***	***V5***
Speak	Spoke	Spoken	Speaking	Speaks

Simple present tense	**Present continuous tense**
I speak	I am speaking
You speak	You are speaking
He speaks	He is speaking
We speak	We are speaking
They speak	They are speaking
Present Perfect Tense	**Present Perfect continuous tense**
I have spoken	I have been speaking
You have spoken	You have been speaking
He has spoken	He has been speaking
We have spoken	We have been speaking
They have spoken	They have been speaking
Simple Past Tense	**Past Continuous Tense**
I spoke	I was speaking
You spoke	You were speaking
He spoke	He was speaking
We spoke	We were speaking
They spoke	They were speaking

Past Perfect Tense	**Past Perfect Continuous Tense**
I had spoken	I had been speaking
You had spoken	You had been speaking
He had spoken	He had been speaking
We had spoken	We had been speaking
They had spoken	They had been speaking
Simple Future Tense	**Future Continuous Tense**
I shall/will speak	I shall/will be speaking
You will speak	You will be speaking
He will speak	He will be speaking
We shall/will speak	We shall/will be speaking
They will speak	They will be speaking
Future Perfect Tense	**Future Perfect Continuous Tense**
I shall/will have spoken	I shall/will have been speaking
You will have spoken	You will have been speaking
He will have spoken	He will have been speaking
We shall/will have spoken	We shall/will have been speaking
They will have spoken	They will have been speaking

V1	***V2***	***V3***	***V4***	***V5***
Speak	Spoke	Spoken	Speaking	Speaks

Rule: In both writing and speaking, usually maintain the same tense within a sentence, paragraph or thought.

 She walked into the room and *sat* down

 She walked into the room and *sits* down

Rules

PRESENT TENSE

Simple present tense is used

1.to express a habitual action:

He *drinks* tea every morning

2. to express general truths:

The sun *rises* in east.

Honey *is* sweet.

3.In exclamatory sentences beginning with here & there:

Here *comes* the bus!

There she *goes*!

4.To express a future event that is a part of fixed timetable or program.

The match starts at 9am

The train *leaves* at 10pm

Present continuous tense

1.for an action going on at the time of speaking

She is *singing*.

The boys are *playing* hockey.

2.for an action that has already been arranged to take place in near future

I am *going* to the cinema tonight.

My uncle is *arriving* tomorrow

The following verbs on account of their meaning are not normally used in continuous form

1.verbs of perception: e.g. see, hear, smell, notice, recognizing

2.verbs of appearing e.g. appearing, look, seem

3.verbs of emotion e.g. want, wish, desire, feel, like, love, hate, hope, refuse, prefer

4. verbs of thinking e.g. think, suppose, believe, agree, consider, trust, remember, forget, know, understand, imagine, mean, mind

5. have(=possess), own, possess, belong to, contain, consist of

Wrong: These grapes are tasting sour.

I am thinking you are wrong.

She is seeming sad.

He is having a cellphone.

Right: these grapes taste sour.

I think you are wrong.

She seems sad.

He has a cellphone.

Present perfect tense

1.to indicate completed activities in the immediate past (with just)

He has just *gone* out.

It has just *struck* ten.

2.to express past actions whose time is not given and not definite

Mr. Hari has *been* to Japan.

I have never *known* him to be angry.

3.to denote an action in the at some time in the past and continuing up to the present moment (often used with *since* or *for* phrases)

I have *known* him for a long time.

He *has been* ill since last week.

We have *lived* here for ten years.

Present perfect continuous tense

-Used for an action which began sometime in the past and is still continuing:

They *have been playing* since 4pm.

He *has been sleeping* for five hours.

PAST TENSE

Simple Past Tense

1.To indicate an action completed in the past.

She *left* the school last year.

I *received* his letter a week ago.

2. Also used for past habits.

He *studied* many hours every day.

She always carried an umbrella.

Past Continuous tense

1.To denote an action going on at some time in the past. The time of action many or may not be indicated.

It *was getting* darker.

The light went out while I *was reading*.

2. The tense is also used with always, continually, etc. for persistent habits in the past.

He *was always grumbling*.

Past perfect Tense

1.Describes an action completed before a certain moment in the past.

I met him in New Delhi in 2000. I *had seen* him last five years before.

2. If 2 actions happened in the past, it may be necessary to show which action happened earlier than the other. The past perfect is mainly used in such situations. The simple past is used in one clause and the past perfect in other clause.

I *had done* my exercise before Hari came to see me.

I *had written* the letter before he arrived.

Past perfect continuous tense

Is used for an action that began before a certain point in the past and continued up to that time.

At that time, he *had been writing* novel a novel for two months.

FUTURE TENSE

The simple future Tense

1.Simple Future Tense is used to talk about things which we cannot control. It expresses the future as a fact.

I *shall be* twenty next Saturday.

It will be Diwali next week.

We *will know* our exam results in May.

2.We use this tense to talk about what we think or believe will happen in future.

I think India *will win* the match tomorrow.

I am sure Radha *will get* a first class.

We often use this tense with *I think, I'm sure, I believe* etc.

Future continuous Tense

1.We use this tense to talk about actions which will be in progress at a time in future.

I suppose it *will be raining* when we start.

2.We also use this tense to talk about actions in the future which are already planned or which are expected to happen in the normal course of things.

I *will be staying* here till Sunday.

He *will be meeting* us next week.

The postman *will be coming* soon.

Future perfect tense

This tense is used to talk about actions that will be completed by a certain future time.

I *shall have written* my exercise by then.

He *will have left* before you go to see him.

By the end of this month I *will have worked* here for five years.

Future perfect continuous tense

This tense is used for actions which will be in progress over a period of time that will end in the future. This tense is not very common.

I'*ll have been teaching* for twenty years next July.

By next march we *shall have been living* here for four years.