

Understand Tense, Person and Number in English Grammar

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Abstract: The chronological order of events and dates is represented by verbs.

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One of the most important parts of speech is verbs. We cannot adequately convey our thoughts and ideas to our audience without using verbs in our sentences. A verb consists of person, number, and tense. Thus, the chronological order of events and dates is represented by verbs. In English grammar, a tense indicates the exact time an action occurred or the exact time of an action between two or more periods. Past, present and future are the three basic verbs in English grammar.

The first tense is the present simple. Usually used when talking about general facts (Slugs have 4 noses), truths (The sun rises in the East), or repetitive actions (I go to work by bus everyday). In the third person, in this tense 's' is added to the main verb. Example: She always drinks coffee. When we talk or describe events happened in the past we use past simple and we form it by adding -ed to the regular verbs, or using the second forms of irregular verbs (e.g: I played with my nephew yesterday/He ate ten eggs last week). Then, when we talk about the events or actions to occur in the future we use future simple (e.g: She will eat sushi tomorrow). For making statements in this tense we may use shall/will or modal verbs that indicates possibility such as can, could, may, might (He may come tomorrow). When we talk about events happening at a particular time we use the progressive or continuous tenses. The present progressive is formed by adding present form of to be to -ing (am/is/are+Ving) while the past progressive is formed by using past form of to be and -ing (was/were+Ving) and the future progressive is formed by using shall be or will be adding -ing form (will/shall+ be+Ving). So present progressive is used for the actions happening at the moment or for the future actions (I'm writing a letter now), whereas past progressive is used for repeated past actions or for the actions in the past interrupted in the past by another actions (I was cooking a meal when the phone rang) and future progressive for actions that will happen at a particular time in the future (Sam will be reading this book the whole night). When it comes to perfect continuous tense it has three form such as present, past and future perfect continuous tense. The first, present perfect continuous tense focuses on describing an action that has started in the past and continued in the present following the formula have/has +been+Ving and past perfect continuous tense describes an action that is continued somewhere in the past and continuing until another action following the formula had +been+Ving and future perfect continuous indicates an action that will continue up until a point in the future following the formula will/shall+ have +been+Ving.

Interpret the ways in which person is indicated in English grammar

Every language has their own grammar and rules that are related to their grammar. Also, English is no exception from others. There are some grammar rules that are similar in all languages. One of them is the way of indicating person. Now the importance and role of this rule in English will be interpreted.

While making a sentence person is one of the main part of it without which there is no chance to identify the subject of the action in an utterance. In English grammar, person is a category that distinguishes the subject of the sentence, first person, second person and third person with personal, possessive and objective pronouns. First person namely shows the addresser, speaker or writer, with pronoun I. I is always singular grammatical person. As a first person, pronoun We is used to show a group in which I is a member. We is plural form of first person. Additionally, pronouns such as me, my, mine can show first person in singular form according to their functions in the sentence as well as pronouns such as us, our, ours can be used to show the first person in plural form. For example, I witnessed this miracle. We moved to our new house. Furthermore, there is second person in the grammar. This category is used for those who are addressed, spoken or written. Basically, the pronoun, you is used as a second person in both singular and plural form while it functions as a subject in sentences. Also, If second person functions as an objective case or possessive determiner, pronouns, you, your and yours will be used. For instance, You are so funny. Can you tell about your life. These examples can show that the pronoun, you, is showing second person, addressee.

Moreover, third person is neither speaker nor listener. This refers to any person, place, or thing. Third grammatical person includes he, she, it, him, her, his, hers for the form of singular. And for the plural form the pronoun, they and its possessive and objective forms, their, theirs, and them, function as third person. Additionally, any names of people and places can be used to show it. For example, she won scholarship. They are very surprised. Rebecca finds out that Edinburgh is the best place for travelling.

The rule for conjugating verbs with grammatical person categories is different in English grammar from other languages'. Except from verb, to be, people do not have to do anything special to the verb if they use a first and second person pronouns as a subject. The verb, to be, is used differently in these three forms of grammatical persons. People use 'am' with I, first person, 'are' with you, second person and with they, plural form of third person and with the pronouns, he, she, it people use 'is'. And while we conjugate verbs with singular form of third person, we add suffix –s and –es to the end of the verbs for present simple tenses.

It is clear that one of the most important rule that everyone should know is the indication of person in grammar. This rule can help anybody to construct the sentences correctly.

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