**SIMPLE TENSES**

**The Simple Present Tense :**

It is usually used to describe repeated, habitual or characteristic actions. The adverbs of frequency will help by signaling the need for the simple present, but sometimes those adverbs are not present, even though their meaning is there.

**Examples:**

A band usually marches by playing a popular tune.

Each night, the lonely old lady feeds the ducks.

Each night he practices in front of the television.

Cigarette smoke has an offensive odor.

Some verbs, sometimes called stative verbs, are almost always used in the simple present form when they are not describing the past.These verbs describe states of being, not actions.These verbs relate sensory perceptions, conditions, judgments, conclusions, emotional states, or states of being.

**Examples:**

David wants to be a sports announcer.

There appears to be a good deal of excitement here.

The crowd loves its team.

His proposal sounds intriguing.

I see the roses in the garden.

You seem to be upset.

I think that we ought to consider changing our position.

This exercise is really easy.

A few verbs are used in the simple present tense though they describe future actions. Fortunately not many verbs are in this group. These verbs generally describe acts of arriving and departing, and beginning and ending.

**Examples:**

The game begins in ten minutes.

The plane leaves for Bermuda in the morning.

The ship departs for Manila in two hours.

The train arrives tomorrow morning.

**Note:** These types of verbs can also be used in the present progressive to convey future actions.

The preceding three uses are the most common however, there are some less common uses of the simple present to be aware of.

1. The simple present can be used to describe the steps in demonstrations, such as a scientific experiment.

Example: We first put the solution in the flask, and then we place the flask in an area where it will get lots of light. When the solution is settled, we add two more ounces of soda.

1. The simple present is often used in commentaries on radio and television to describe what is taking place. In this case, the simple present often conveys a rapid sequence of events and provides a sense of drama/

Example: The referee tosses up the ball. Jones tips it to his teammate, who races down the court.

1. The simple present is often used in announcements and in newspaper headlines.

Example: Flood destroys ten homes in the canyon.

**The simple past tense:**

The simple past tense in regular verbs is formed by adding **ed** to the infinitive.

Example: to work worked

Verbs ending in “e” add “d” only.

Example: to love loved

There are no inflections. The same form is used for al persons.

Example: I worked you worked he worked….

The negative of regular and irregular verbs is formed with **did not** and the infinitive without “to”.

Example: I did not work you did not work……

The interrogative of regular and irregular verbs is formed with did + subject + infinitive

Example: Did you work?

**Contractions:**

**Did not** is normally contracted in the negative and negative interrogative

Example: I didn’t work Didn’t you work?

**Irregular verbs:**

These vary considerably in their simple past form:

Examples: to speak spoke

To eat ate

To see saw

To leave left

The simple past form of each irregular verb must therefore be learnt, but once this is done there is no other difficulty, as irregular verbs, like regular verbs have no inflections in the past tense

The simple past is the tense normally use for the relation of past events.

It is used for actions completed in the past at a definite time. It is therefore used:

For a past action when the time is given.

Example: I met him yesterday.

When the time is asked about:

Example: When did you meet him?

When the action clearly took place at a definite time even though this time is not mentioned:

Example: The train was ten minutes late.

Sometimes the time becomes definite as a result of a question and answer in the present perfect:

Example: Where have you been? I’ve been to the opera. Did you enjoy it?

The simple past tense is used for an action whose time is not given but which occupied a period of time now terminated, or occurred in a period of time now terminated

Examples: He worked in the bank for four years

She lived in Rome for a long time

My grandmother once saw Queen Victoria.

Did you ever hear Madonna sing?

The simple past tense is also used for a past habit:

Example: He always carried an umbrella.

He never drank wine.

The simple past is used in conditional sentences of type 2.

Example: If I met the queen, I would be very excited.

**The simple future**

**The** future tense is will/ shall + infinitive, but it is not used nearly as often as students naturally expect. In fact, it is only one of a number ways of expressing the future. The future is used to express the speaker’s opinions, assumptions, speculations about the future. These may be introduced by verbs such as **think, know, hope, know, believe, doubt, suppose, assume, expect, be afraid, feel sure, wonder……..**

The future tense can be used for future habitual actions which we assume will take place:

Example: Spring will come again.

The future tense is used with clauses of condition, time and sometimes purpose

Example: If I drop this glass it will break

Verbs of the senses, of emotion, thinking, possessing…normally xpress the future by the future tense

Example: He’ll be here at six.

The future tense is used chiefly in newspapers and news broadcasts, for formal announcements of future plans:

Example: The president will open the new heliport tomorrow.