

Tenses

Do tenses make you tense?

Tense is a form of a verb which shows the time at which an action happened.

It is significant to know the tense of a verb, because if we know the tense, we know the time of action as well as the state of action.

Take a simple sentence, **I love you**. It is different from:

1. I **had loved** you (before I left college)
2. I **loved** you (in college)
3. I **shall love** you (if you spend some more money on me).



The difference is of course in the tense. You know that the sentence **I love you** is in the **present**; sentences **(1)** and **(2)** are in the **past**; and **(3)** is in the **future**. So, you have no problem with time. You can easily know whether it is in the past, present or future.

The story of IIM Prospect

Suppose there's a student of PT called IIM Prospect, who normally goes to sleep while reading grammar. If I were to report that, I would say **He sleeps**. This is the **simple present tense**, which is used when we talk about things in general. In this case, it is a habitual action. Since I am simply making a statement about his habit, the verb takes the simple present tense.

Suppose I enter his room for a surprise check one day at, say, 1 p.m., and I see that **he is sleeping**. This is the **present continuous tense**. I do not use the simple present tense here because I may not be making a simple statement that **he sleeps**. I am making a statement about what he was doing **when** I observed him. So, it is more definite. I see that at that moment that action was continuing. I do not know whether he has been sleeping for some time or whether he is fully asleep. I just observe him at a particular point of time and I see an action continuing. Hence, the present continuous tense.

Suppose I go to his room again at 1.30 p.m. I now see that **he has slept**. It is the **present perfect tense** as the action is complete; he is completely asleep. At 1 p.m., when I noticed him for the first time, I was not sure if he was completely asleep. Now I am. At the same time, I do not know if he has been completely asleep for the past 10 to 15 minutes. I observe him now, at 1.30 p.m., and I see that the action is in the complete state.

I have used the verb sleep as example, because this verb demonstrates well the play on the word **complete**. The word **complete** is applicable in both the senses of its meaning, **completed** as in over and **complete** as in completely. **He has slept** can also mean that he has finished sleeping and has got up. It can also mean that he is completely asleep, and not just dozing. Most other verbs generally take **the perfect tense in the sense of the action being over**. For example, **he has drunk two glasses of lemonade**, means he has finished drinking two glasses.

Now, if I go to the IIM Prospect's room again at 3.30 p.m., I see that **he has been sleeping** for the past two hours. This is the **present perfect continuous tense**. That is, the action is still continuing and has been continuing for some time now. The difference between the continuous tense and the perfect continuous is that in continuous, we only know that at the time of reference, the action is continuing. In the case of perfect continuous, the action is continuing, but we are also given information about a time period for which it has been continuing.

We must be careful about another thing here, about the difference between **for** and **since**. He has been sleeping **for two hours**, or **since 1.30 p.m.**, i.e. **for** a duration and **since** a point of time. We should be careful that **for** is not used with the word **all**. He has been **sleeping all morning**. Also, we use **since** when we refer to some action. He has been **sleeping since he returned**.

You may question that we also use the simple tense when giving information about duration. For example, I slept **for two hours**. Yes, this is correct. It is not necessary that whenever we mention duration of action, it must be the perfect continuous. It is the other way round. Whenever we use the perfect continuous, the duration of action should be specified.

So, are you clear about the tenses for the corresponding states of action? If you are clear, then you have understood tenses. This is because it is all the same in the past and the future. It is just that the time changes. If we go to the past or the future tenses, we see that they are the same as the present tenses. It has only changed from the present to the past or the future.

Suppose I want to tell a colleague the next day about my surprise check at IIM Prospect's place, I would change only the time of the tense in the same sentences.

1. You know IIM Prospect **slept** yesterday.
2. I went to observe him for the first time at 1 p.m., and I saw that **he was sleeping**.
3. I observed him again at 1.30 p.m. and I saw that **he had slept**.
4. When I saw him for the last time at 3.30 p.m., I was surprised to see that **he had been sleeping** for two hours, since 1.30 p.m.

We see that the sentences are the same except for the fact that they are reported as having happened in the past.

He slept is a **simple statement** about **something that happened in the past**. **He was sleeping** suggests that at the point of observation, **that action was continuing**. It doesn't say from when it has been continuing as in the case of present continuous. **He had slept** gives the information that at the point of observation **the action was complete**. **He had been sleeping** tells us that he was still sleeping when last observed and had been doing so for some time.

Suppose I were to tell someone to check on IIM Prospect the next day and ask him to verify my prediction about his habit. I would now change the same sentences to read:

1. He **will sleep** tomorrow.
2. If you go to his place around 1 p.m., he **will be sleeping**.
3. If you again check on him around 1.30 p.m., you will see that he **will have slept**.
4. Go to him again around 3.30 p.m. and he **will have been sleeping** for two hours.

	Present	Past	Future
Simple	He sleeps.	He slept.	He will sleep.
Continuous	He is sleeping.	He was sleeping.	He will be sleeping
Perfect	He has slept.	He had slept.	He will have slept.
Perfect continuous	He has been sleeping.	He had been sleeping.	He will have been sleeping.

Now, don't you dare follow IIM Prospect's example and go to sleep! You have some work to do.

Correct the following sentences.

1. I **had been married** in 1990.
2. She **finished** her work when I met her.
3. They **had gone to Calcutta** last night.
4. Who **had invented** the gramophone?
5. The fair **had been over** ten days ago.
6. He **had come to my room** while I was reading.
7. I saw her when I **had been passing** yesterday.
8. He **was ill** for a week when the doctor was sent for.
9. The rain **had ceased yesterday**.
10. I **have written my application** yesterday.
11. The lion **had been caged** last night.
12. I **understood** what you say.
13. I **lived** in Bombay for twenty years.
14. He **had come** only yesterday.
15. Examinations **have been held** next month.




Solutions

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. married or was married | 2. had finished |
| 3. went to Calcutta | 4. invented |
| 5. was over | 6. came into my room |
| 7. was passing | 8. had been ill |
| 9. ceased yesterday | 10. wrote my application |
| 11. was caged | 12. understand |
| 13. have lived | 14. came |
| 15. will be held or are going to be held. | |

Observe and learn

- Betty taught for ten years. **(Simple past)**
The implication is that Betty has retired.
- Betty has taught for ten years. **(Present perfect)**
Implies that she is still teaching.
- John raised vegetables and later sold them. **(Past)**
- John sold vegetables that he had raised. **(Past perfect)**
- Renee washed the car when George arrived. **(Simple past)**
She waited until George arrived and then washed the car.
- Renee had washed the car when George arrived. **(Past perfect)**
She had already finished washing the car by the time he arrived.
- This Saturday I will finish my housework. **(Simple future)**
- By Saturday noon, I will have finished my housework. **(Future perfect)**
- The children **love** their new tree house, which they **built** themselves.
"Love" is present tense, referring to a current state (they still love it now). "Built" is past, referring to an action completed before the current time frame (they are not still building it.)
- Before they even **began** deliberations, many jury members **had reached** a verdict.
"Began" is past tense, referring to an action completed before the current time frame. "Had reached" is past perfect, referring to action from a time frame before that of another past event (the action of reaching was completed before the action of beginning.)
- Workers **are installing** extra loudspeakers because the music in tonight's concert **will need** amplification.
"Are installing" is present progressive, referring to an ongoing action in the current time frame (the workers are still installing, and have not finished). "Will need" is future, referring to action expected to begin after the current time frame (the concert will start in the future, and that's when it will need amplification.)
- I **have run** in four marathons.
Implication is I may run in more marathons.
- Before injuring my leg, I **ran** in four marathons.
Implication is my injury prevents me from running in any more marathons.
- By the time the Senator **finished (past)** his speech, the audience **had lost (past perfect)** interest.
- By the time the Senator **finishes (present: habitual action)** his speech, the audience **has lost (present perfect)** interest.
- By the time the Senator **finishes (present: suggesting future time)** his speech, the audience **will have lost (future perfect)** interest.
- After everyone **had finished (past perfect)** the main course, we **offered (past)** our guests dessert.
- After everyone **has finished (present perfect)** the main course, we **offer (present: habitual action)** our guests dessert.
- After everyone **has finished (present perfect)** the main course, we **will offer (future: specific one-time action)** our guests dessert.
- Long before the sun **rose (past)**, the birds **had arrived (past perfect)** at the feeder.
- Long before the sun **rises (present: habitual action)**, the birds **have arrived (present perfect)** at the feeder.
- Long before the sun **rises (present: suggesting future time)**, the birds **will have arrived (future perfect)** at the feeder.



Incorrect	Correct
The ocean contains rich minerals that washed down from rivers and streams.	The ocean contains rich minerals that wash down from rivers and streams. <i>"Contains" is present tense, referring to a current state. "Washed down" is past, but should be present ("wash down") because the minerals are still being washed down.</i>
About noon the sky darkened , a breeze sprang up , and a low rumble announces the approaching storm.	About noon the sky darkened , a breeze sprang up , and a low rumble announced the approaching storm.
Yesterday we had walked to school but later rode the bus home.	Yesterday we walked to school but later rode the bus home. <i>"Had walked" is past perfect tense but should be past to maintain consistency with the time frame ("yesterday"). "Rode" is past, referring to an action completed before the current time frame.</i>
Kapil Dev had played for more than a decade when Tendulkar entered the Indian team. 	Kapil Dev had been playing for more than a decade when Tendulkar entered the Indian team.
He <i>hinted</i> that he wants money.	He <i>hinted</i> that he wanted money.
He <i>replied</i> that he will come.	He <i>replied</i> that he would come.
I never <i>thought</i> that I shall see him again.	I never <i>thought</i> that I should (or would) see him again.
Newton discovered that the apple fell due to gravity.	Newton <i>discovered</i> that the apple falls due to gravity.
He <i>said</i> that honesty was the best policy.	He <i>said</i> that honesty is the best policy.
Just as the sun rose, the rooster crowes .	Just as the sun <i>rose</i> , the rooster crowed . OR Just as the sun <i>rises</i> , the rooster crowes .
Mozart finished about two thirds of the Requiem when he died.	Mozart had finished about two thirds of the Requiem when he died.
By the time I write to Leo he will probably move .	By the time I write to Leo, he will probably have moved .
Being a French colony, Senegal is a Francophone nation.	Having been a French colony, Senegal is a Francophone nation.
The criminal escaped from custody and is believed to flee the country.	The criminal escaped from custody and is believed to have fled the country.
Some archaeologists believe that the Minoans of 3,700 years ago had practised a religion that involved human sacrifice.	Some archaeologists believe that the Minoans of 3,700 years ago practised a religion that involved human sacrifice.
If the experiment works, it will be representing a quantum leap forward for pharmaceutical chemistry.	If the experiment works, it will represent a quantum leap forward for pharmaceutical chemistry.
He had seen that movie recently, so he doesn't want to see it tonight.	He saw that movie recently, so he doesn't want to see it tonight.
When she retires, she will save enough money to allow her to live comfortably.	When she retires, she will have saved enough money to allow her to live comfortably.
She already closed the door behind her when it occurred to her that she wasn't able to get back in later.	She had already closed behind her when it occurred to her that she wouldn't be able to get back in.
I did not see (or had not seen) him since last Saturday.	I have not seen him since last Saturday.
If it rains tomorrow, we cancel our plans.	If it rains tomorrow, we will cancel our plans.
When Bill arrived, Sal still did not begin to unload the truck.	When Bill arrived, Sal still had not begun to unload the truck.
To go to war is to have travelled to hell.	To go to war is to go to hell. OR To have gone to war is to have travelled to hell.
Seeing the obstacle would have allowed him to alter his course.	Having seen the obstacle would have allowed him to alter his course. OR Seeing the obstacle would allow him to alter his course.

Types of tenses

Present simple

Incorrect	Correct
He is taking a walk every morning.	He takes a walk every morning.
Two and two are making four.	Two and two make four. OR Two and two makes four.
Here is coming the bus!	Here comes the bus!
Michael reads the newspaper and then gave it back to Michelle.	Michael read the newspaper and then gave it back to Michelle.
Last week at the movies, this guy talks through the entire film.	Last week at the movies, this guy talked through the entire film.
The Indian team is going to the Caribbean next month. <i>Correct but less common construction.</i>	The Indian team goes to the Caribbean next month. <i>Correct and more common construction.</i>

Present simple tense is used to depict the following:

Present action: She **dances** beautifully.

Habitual action: He **practises** every day.

Literary (in the broadest sense) or artistic action:

1. In the comics, Dagwood Bumstead **begs** Blondie for food every time she cooks.
2. King Lear **is** already old when the play begins.
3. Chagall's characters **float** in midair in his paintings.

Timeless or universally accepted truth:

1. Galileo discovered that the earth **revolves** around the sun.
2. A bird in hand **is** worth two in the bush.



Present continuous

Present continuous is used:

To express an action going on at the time of speaking

For example, if you are sitting indoors, and you lament not being able to go out because of the heavy rain, you say, "It **is raining** heavily". If you say, "It **rains** heavily", you are not referring to the falling of the rain at the moment of speaking, but to a phenomenon that occurs regularly, as in: "It **rains** heavily in equatorial regions and hilly areas."

To express a temporary action which may not be actually happening at the time of speaking

For example, if you are a teacher but work on a project temporarily, you say, "I **am working** on a project." This you may say in a conversation even though you are not *working* at the moment of speaking. You cannot say, "**I work** on a project." Because this would give the false impression that you are a project worker by profession. As things stand in the given circumstances, the appropriate statements would be, "**I teach. I am working** on a project."

To express an action that is planned or arranged to take place in the near future

He **is going** to the city tomorrow.

When the reference is to a particularly obstinate habit, the present continuous is used instead of present simple. An adverb like "always", "continually" and "constantly" is also used.

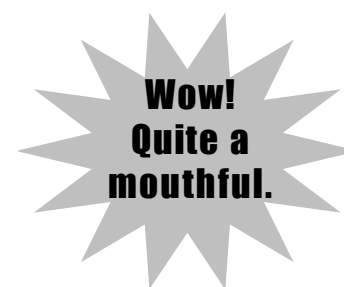
Incorrect: It is no use scolding him; he always **does** what is forbidden.

Note that his doing what is forbidden has become a die-hard habit. The habit persists in spite of advice or warning. So, we should use the present continuous.

Correct: It is no use scolding him; he **is always doing** what is forbidden.

The following verbs are normally used in the present simple instead of the present continuous.

- **Verbs of appearing:** appear, look, seem.
- **Verbs of emotion:** want, wish, desire, feel, like, love, hate, hope, prefer, refuse.
- **Verbs of perception:** see, hear, smell, notice, recognise.
- **Verbs of possession:** belong to, consist of, contain, have, own, possess.
- **Verbs of thinking:** agree, believe, consider, forget, imagine, know, mean, mind, remember, suppose, think, trust, understand.
- **The verb "be":**
Incorrect: The allegation **is appearing** to be true.
Correct: The allegation **appears** to be true.




Do you think it is right to say: "He **is appearing** on the stage for the first time"? This is right because appear here does not mean look or seem. It means *present oneself formally or publicly*.

Present perfect

Present perfect is used:

To express past actions whose time is not known and not definite.

Incorrect	Correct
I wrote three books. 	I have written three books. <i>The original sentence appears to be incomplete. The reader of the sentence immediately queries: "When did you write three books?" It would be a different case if you had said: "I wrote books". Then the reader would infer that you wrote books in the past as a profession or hobby. But when you are being so specific as to say "three books", we immediately feel the need of a time frame. Since no time frame is mentioned, we assume it to be by now (not definite). So, we have something to the effect: I have written three books by now. This by now is implied and need not be written.</i>
India has won the match last week.	India won the match last week.
They are building the road since March last.	They have been building the road since March last.
I have been knowing him for a long time.	I have known him for a long time.
He just came .	He has just come . <i>Remember that "just" can be used with the present perfect tense but not with the simple past tense.</i>

To depict an action that started in the past and is still going on

I have lived in this apartment for eight years. (... and I'm still here.)

To depict an action that has been completed but is somehow still connected to the present

1. I have bought a house on your block. (...and will now be living there.)
2. He has drunk too much wine. (... and now has a headache.)
3. The Aussies have won the World Cup! (... they have just won it, recently.)

Past simple

Past simple tense is used:

After "It is time or it is high time"

It is time we started working.



To express past actions

1. I met her last year.
2. I visited Jaipur every year.
3. The Aussies won the World Series last year.
4. I ate dinner and went to bed.

Past continuous

Incorrect	Correct
When I saw her, she wrote a poem with full attention.	When I saw her, she was writing a poem with full attention.
She always chewed gum.	She was always chewing gum.

Past perfect

1. **Incorrect:** He **wrote** a novel even before he was 10 years old.
2. **Correct:** He **had written** a novel even before he was 10 years old.

If two actions happen in the past, the earlier one is denoted by past perfect while the later one is denoted by past simple.

1. The Yankees **were winning** (*past perfect*) when I **fell** (*past*) asleep.
2. I **had deposited** money in the bank when my friend **came** to borrow from me.

Future tense

Use the future tense to convey an action that has not yet taken place

1. Stacey **will go** back to school one day.
2. Nancy **finishes** school next spring.

The present tense "finishes" functions in the future tense as a result of its context (next spring), which is perfectly acceptable.

Use the future perfect tense to convey an action that will be completed in the future

By next year, Ellen will have written her third novel.

Progressive (continuous)

Use the progressive tense to convey a continuous or perpetual action taking place within any other tense (past, present or future)

1. Lisa **is studying** economics.
2. Tom **has been praying** for rain.
3. In September, Doug **will have been painting** for twenty years.

Will and shall

We use **shall** with the **first person** and **will** with the **second** and **third person in normal sentences**.

1. I **shall** go there.
2. We **shall** entertain them.
3. He **will** go there.
4. They **will** entertain us.

However, if there is a tone of **determination** or **threat** or **promise**, etc., which necessitates **emphasis**, the reverse takes place.

1. I **will** do it.
2. We **will** not spare them.
3. He **shall** do it.
4. You **shall** receive your treat tomorrow.

Nowadays, we do not use **shall** with **second** and **third person** even in the special case. But for our purpose, we have to be clear with the traditional rules of grammar.

Two bachelors

Hear the story of the two bachelors to understand the difference between **will** and **shall**.

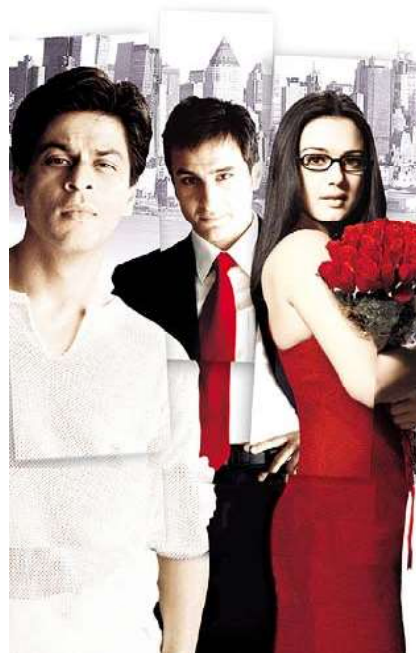
Two bachelors are about to die. Ram says, "I **will** die and none **shall** marry me." Shyam says, "I **shall** die and none **will** marry me."

Are they confused their grammar in their last moments? Actually not! Their statements are correct but they are stating two different things.

Ram just wants to die and does not **want** anyone to marry him.

Shyam is worried that he is going to die a bachelor. So, **shall** is used with the first person and **will** with the second person.

Hopefully, both bachelors **will** die in peace.



Will and would

We use **would** instead of **will**, when we are talking about something that had been predicted at some time in the past. It is like a **future-in-the-past** tense.

1. Everyone believed that he **would** marry Malti.
2. No one believed that he **would** score a century. (At some time in the past this had been predicted).

We also use **would** instead of **will**, when we talk about something that was predicted to happen in the **future because it was habitual**.

Had **Bradman** been alive today, he **would** have scored many more centuries.

Sometimes we use **would** with a negative connotation as in sentences with a dependent and independent clause.

I would if I could. (This sentence obviously means that I won't do it because I can't do it.)



Exercises

Exercise # 01

Choose the correct verb form from those given in brackets.

1. He (has, is having) a house in Bombay.
2. The earth (moves, moved) round the sun.
3. We (saw, have seen) the Prime Minister yesterday.
4. I shall meet you when he (comes, will come) back.
5. It started raining while we (played, were playing) football.
6. Can I have some milk before I (go, am going) to bed?
7. He (fell, had fallen) asleep while he was driving.
8. I am sure I (met, had met) him at the station yesterday.
9. He (is living, has been living) in this house (since, for) ten years.
10. He thanked me for what I (have done, had done) for him.
11. She (is, will be) twenty next Monday.
12. We (have been working, are working) in this factory (since, for) five years.
13. She (is wanting, wants) to be a doctor.
14. If you (start, started) at once, you will reach there by this evening.
15. He (went, had gone) out five minutes ago.

Exercise # 02

Choose the correct verb form from those given in brackets.

1. He (wants, is wanting) to talk to you.
2. You (bought, had bought) a new scooter last week.
3. I (have just cleaned, just cleaned) my shoes.
4. She (has done, did) a lot of work today.
5. I shall return your book when I (will come, come) next time.
6. She (has been, is) ill (since, for) a week.
7. I know all about this book because I (read, have read) it twice.
8. I (didn't see, have not seen) him since we met a year ago.
9. I (smell, am smelling) something burning.
10. My father (arrives, will have arrived) tomorrow morning.
11. We (finished, have finished) our lunch half an hour ago.
12. Did you think you (have seen, had seen) him sometime earlier also?
13. The train (has left, will have left) before we reach the station.
14. He jumped off the train while it (ran, was running, had been running).
15. He rarely (comes, is coming) these days.

Exercise # 03

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given against each sentence.

1. It is years since I ... him. (See)
2. Of late he ... me. (Not meet)
3. In a fit of rage, she ... up the letters. (Tear)
4. The old man ... by a mad dog. (Bite)
5. A better day for this function could not ... (Choose)
6. The cart ... in the mud. (Stick)
7. She had ... all through the winter. (Work)
8. I wish I ... him. (Know)

9. If only I ... her. (Know)
10. I ... him a week ago. (See)
11. He ... here for more than five years. (Work)
12. Take your raincoat in case it ... (Rain)
13. I ... to my office tomorrow. (Go)
14. He often ... late. (Reach)
15. My sister ... twenty on Deepawali day. (Be)

Exercise # 04

Correct the following sentences.

1. It is high time you **resolve** your differences.
2. He **retired** to bed before we reached there.
3. I **know** him **since** many years.
4. I **am having** a car.
5. He **left** for America next week.
6. I will return as soon as he **came**.
7. She **is reading** since the morning.
8. I wish I **know** him.
9. I **met** him before he came to the town.
10. You won't pass until you **will not work hard**.
11. I **write** an essay this time.
12. It is time we **will begin** the work.
13. Don't get down the bus **until it will not stop**.
14. He **lives** in Calcutta now.
15. I **am going** to office every day by bus.
16. He **is teaching** at this school **from** 1985.
17. He **is having his breakfast** at 8 a.m.
18. He **has passed** M. A. last year.
19. He **already does** his work.
20. Who **has discovered** the force of gravitation?

Exercise # 05

Correct the errors, if any, in the use of tenses in the following paragraph.

By the time Paul **arrived** at the house it **is** too late. The door **was** open, the light **was** on and his wife **has disappeared**. People **are** still walking home from work and the sidewalk in front of his house **pulsed** with a slow but steady stream of neighbours who **stared** at him as they **passed**. In the twilight, the streetlamp's glow **casts** dim and surreal highlights on the odd assortment of objects in his yard, the treadmill and the ten potted plants **arranged** in alphabetical order on the front walk. Looking back furtively over his shoulder as he **folds** the treadmill and **secured** its dangling electrical cord, Paul **gives** the impression of some agitation as he **pushed** the machine through the door and into the foyer of his home. One of the pots **is** an inch and a half out of alignment. Sighing, he **nudged** it into place and **picked** up a leaf that **fell** when the pot **moved**.

Exercise # 06

Correct the errors, if any, in the use of tenses in the following paragraph.

Vincent Van Gogh **is** probably most well known in America for cutting off a large piece of his own ear with a razor in a fit of rage after a violent quarrel with Paul Gauguin with whom he **was sharing** a house at the time. While trying to establish an artists' colony in the South of France, Gauguin and Van Gogh **live** together in the "Yellow House" for several months, during which time their arguments over art **escalated** to the virulent stage. Van Gogh also **suffers** from manic depression; a serious mental illness characterised by dramatic mood swings from very high highs to very low lows. Unfortunately, the time of the quarrel with Gauguin **coincided** with one of Van Gogh's low periods, causing him to be almost prostrate with despair. Van Gogh **wrapped** the piece of ear in a sheet of newspaper and **gives** it to a local prostitute, an action that **causes** outrage among the local populace and **prompted** his brother Theo, with whom he **had** a very close relationship, to encourage Van Gogh to commit himself to an asylum. The flamboyance of the event **was** unfortunate in many ways, but primarily because it **became** the event most associated with the name of Van Gogh and **tended** to diminish the importance of his work in the eyes of many.

Exercise # 07

Correct the errors, if any, in the use of tenses in the following paragraph.

After Israel left school, he **come** by the office to get some money for snacks. He **is wearing** his favourite shirt, the one with the broad blue and gray stripes. He **was asking** the receptionist if his mother **is** in her office when the fire alarm **begins** to sound. Everyone went crazy with fear. People **begun** to run all over the office like their hair was on fire. Israel **remained** calm. He **saw** that a woman **had fell** on the floor, so he **run** over to assist her. While helping her up, Israel **seen** smoke beginning to come from underneath the employee lounge door. Quickly, he got the woman to her feet and **escorts** her out the fire exit. The fire department sirens could be heard in the distance. Israel **looks** around the crowd in a panic searching for his mother. He could not find her anywhere. He **starts** to yell her name but soon **realises** that more than 100 other mothers **are** there and could answer to "MOM." So, Israel yelled out his mother's first name in the hope of getting her attention.

Exercise # 08

Correct the errors, if any, in the use of tenses in the following paragraph.

The fireman **have already arrived** and set up a safety perimeter. A nice fireman **sees** Israel wandering around calling for his mom. In hopes of keeping Israel occupied and in trying to help him find his mother, the fireman **takes** Israel to a checkpoint station set up by the American Red Cross. Here, employees and customers from the building could register their names so that their safe exit could be accounted for. The scared and confused young man of only 10 years **steps** forward to enter his name and to check for his mother's name. Nervously, he **run** his finger down the list and begun to shake as the list came to an end and his mother's name had not yet appeared. The tears **began** to well up in his eyes as he **is shuffled** to a canopy-covered holding area across the street in an abandoned parking lot.

Exercise # 09

Correct the errors, if any, in the use of tenses in the following paragraph.

Israel sat on an old ice chest that was being used as a makeshift chair. Off to his left he could see where the EMTs **are treating** people with minor injuries and **were loading** some of the more critical patients into the ambulances. Searching the faces of those being treated for minor injuries, Israel **recognised** a woman dressed in a pretty floral dress. Her hair a mess, streaked in soot, the heel of her shoe broken, she hobbled to a stretcher and began to receive treatment for her ankle injury. Israel rubbed his eyes; he couldn't believe it! There before him, after all that confusion and anxiety **stands** his mother.

Solutions

Exercise # 01 to 09

Exercise # 01

1. has
3. saw
5. were playing
7. had fallen
9. has been living, for
11. will be
13. wants
15. went.

2. moves
4. comes
6. go
8. met
10. had done
12. have been working, for
14. start

7. have read
8. have not seen
9. smell
10. arrives
11. finished
13. will have left
15. comes.
12. had seen
14. was running

Exercise # 02

1. wants
3. have just cleaned
5. come

2. bought
4. has done
6. has been, for

Exercise # 03

1. saw
3. tore
5. have been chosen
7. had been working
9. had known
11. has worked
13. shall go
15. will be
2. has not met
4. was bitten
6. was stuck
8. knew
10. saw
12. rains
14. reaches

Exercise # 04

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. resolved | 2. had retired |
| 3. have known, for | 4. have |
| 5. leaves | 6. he comes |
| 7. has been reading | 8. knew |
| 9. had met | 10. until you work hard |
| 11. am writing | 12. began the work |
| 13. until it stops | 14. is living |
| 15. go | 16. has been teaching, since |
| 17. has his breakfast | 18. passed |
| 19. has already done | 20. discovered. |

Exercise # 05

Arrived, was, was, was, had disappeared, were, pulsed, stared, passed, cast, arranged, folded, secured, gave, pushed, was, nudged, picked, had fallen, moved.

Exercise # 06

Is, was sharing, had lived, had escalated, suffered, coincided, wrapped, gave, caused, prompted, had, was, has become, has tended.

Exercise # 07

Came, was, was wearing, was asking, was, began, began, remained, saw, had fallen, ran, saw, escorted, looked, started, realised, were.

Exercise # 08

Had already arrived, saw, took, stepped, ran, began, was shuffled.

Exercise # 09

Were treating, were loading, recognised, stood.