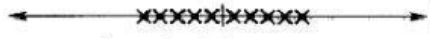
Tenses

Decide which tense is being described in each 'time line' and short description and then write an example sentence in that tense. A cross shows an individual action or event and a wavy line shows an activity happening continuously or repeatedly. Look at the example given.

1 Past Now Future

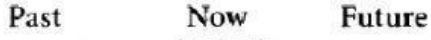


Tense = *Present simple*

never changing/always true

e.g. I always *brush my teeth before I go to bed.*

2 Past Now Future

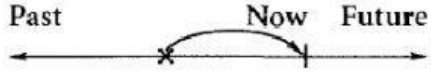


Tense = ...

happening now/during a period around now

e.g. I ..... this month.

3 Past Now Future

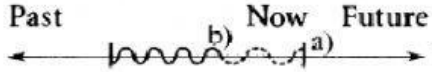


Tense = ...

past event where time is not mentioned or where the present result is more important than when the event happened

e.g. I ..... so I'm not hungry, thanks.

4 Past Now Future



Tense = ...

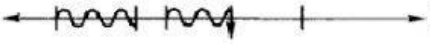
action started in past and a) continuing now b) finished but evidence remains

e.g. a) I ..... for an hour.

b) I ..... that's why my face is so red.

5 Past a) b) Now Future

this time last week — the phone rang



Tense = ...

activity over time in past a) at a certain time b) when another event occurred

e.g a) I ..... this time last week.

b) I ..... when the phone rang.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Tenses

6 Past Now Future



Tense = ...

event(s) in past occurring before a point of reference/another event in past

e.g. By the time the police arrived, the robbers

..... .

7 Past Now Future

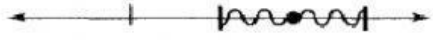


Tense = ...

activity started before and continuing up to a point of reference in past

e.g I ..... for ten hours when I fell asleep exhausted.

8 Past Now Future

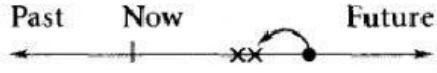


Tense = ...

activity seen as occurring around a stated time/reference point in the future

e.g. I ..... this time next month.

9 Past Now Future



Tense = ...

future event(s) happening before another future event/point of reference

e.g I hope I ..... when I meet her next week.

10 Past Now Future

Tense = ...

activity started before and continuing up to a future point of reference

e.g. I ..... for three years next June.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Thomas Jefferson
INSTITUTO DE DISEÑO Y COMUNICACIÓN

Tenses

In the following passage, put the verbs in brackets into a suitable (active or passive) tense and put any adverbial expressions in the correct place. The first one has been done for you.

I must admit that Maria's English (1) *is improving* (improve) every day. Three weeks ago she (2) ..... (manage) to book us on to the Portsmouth to Santander ferry at the local travel agent's.

The night before we (3) ..... (be) due to leave, she (4) ..... (ring) me up to remind me to be on time. 'Don't forget the train (5) ..... (leave) at 7.35 and if we (6) ..... (miss) that, we (7) ..... (miss) the ferry too!' she said.

'Of course I (8) ..... (get) there on time,' I replied, somewhat annoyed. 'You're the one who (9) ..... (always turn up) late for things!'

Surprisingly, we both (10) ..... (arrive) at the station in time (11) ..... (catch) the train. We (12) ..... (sit) on the train for about ten minutes when we realised, to our horror, that it (13) ..... (go) in the wrong direction! We got off at the next station where a ticket seller informed us that there (14) ..... (not be) another train to Portsmouth until 8.45. We explained that we had to catch the ferry at 10 o'clock. 'Well, if I (15) ..... (be) you,' he said, 'I (16) ..... (catch) the coach. That should get you to Portsmouth before the ferry (17) ..... (sail). But you (18) ..... (have) to hurry, it (19) ..... (leave) the bus station in about five minutes!'

We shot off like lightning despite the heavy rucksacks on our backs and jumped on the coach just as the driver (20) ..... (shut) the doors. We (21) ..... (just collapse) in our seats with a sigh of relief, when the driver announced, 'Sorry everyone but the motorway (22) ..... (still repair) so we (23) ..... (not get) to Portsmouth until 9.45.'

We groaned in despair. That gave us only fifteen minutes to get to the ferry terminal.

We arrived at Portsmouth bus station at 9.40 and jumped straight into a taxi.

'The Santander ferry terminal and please hurry,' I shouted, 'or it (24) ..... (go) before we (25) ..... (get) there!'

To our astonishment, the taxi driver calmly switched off the engine and turned round.

'(26) ..... you ..... (not hear)?' he said, smiling, 'the ferry workers (27) ..... (come) out on strike last night!'

'Oh no!' I cried in disbelief. 'If only I (28) ..... (listen) to the news this morning!'

LIVEWORKSHEETS