

Grammar Workshop: Present and Past Tenses

1. Verb "To Be" – Present (am, is, are)

We use "to be" to describe identities, locations, feelings, descriptions, or states that are true in the present.

Examples:

- I **am** a student of environmental engineering.
- This device **is** efficient and easy to use.
- Online classes **are** progressively popular.
- We **are not** ready for the presentation yet.
- **Are they** part of the research group?

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) _____ part of our everyday lives.
2. The main problem _____ the deficiency of ethical guidelines when people use AI.
3. These students _____ not familiar with the new platform.
4. _____ Natalia responsible for updating the database?
5. I _____ interested in this topic because it affects my area of study.

2. Present Simple

We use the Present Simple to talk about general realities, regular habits, or truths that are valid.

Examples:

- Scientists **use** AI to improve medical diagnoses.
- Many people **don't trust** AI completely.
- **Does** your research **emphasis** on language learning?

Exercise 2: Fill in the blanks

1. In modern cities, people _____ (use/uses) technology for basic tasks.
2. AI _____ (not follow/follows) human emotions.
3. _____ (Do/Does) AI programs make decisions independently?
4. Experts _____ (agree/agrees) that AI can reduce human error.
5. Many companies _____ (invest/invests) in smart systems.

3. Present Continuous

We use the Present Continuous to describe actions in progress or temporary situations.

Examples:

- Researchers **are analyzing** data from the new system.
- The team **is working** on a real-time translation tool.
- We **are not discussing** that topic today.
- **Are you facing** any technical issues?

Exercise 3: Match the sentence halves

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| 1. The AI system is _____ | a. changing the way we work. |
| 2. Experts are _____ | b. testing new software. |
| 3. At the moment, we are _____ | c. analyzing large sets of data. |
| 4. Students are not _____ | d. understanding the importance of ethics. |

Reading: The Role of AI in Everyday Life – 2025

In 2025, Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a central role in modern life. While AI is not yet perfect, it supports various aspects of society, including education, healthcare, and transportation. Currently, more people are using AI-powered tools to manage time, analyze data, and communicate.

For example, world banks often use AI to receive real-time feedback on their business. At the same time, researchers are exploring how AI can enhance learning outcomes. Nevertheless, not everyone is convinced about its benefits. Some people believe AI creates dependence and reduces critical thinking.

Despite these concerns, the development of AI continues. Experts around the world are collaborating to ensure that AI systems become more ethical and inclusive.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Mention two areas where AI is being used.

2. What is one advantage and one concern about AI mentioned in the text?

2: Past Tenses

1. Verb "To Be" – Past (was, were)

We use "was" and "were" to describe past states, locations, or emotions.

Examples:

- In the 1960s, Japan **was** focused on rebuilding its infrastructure.
- The highways **were not** as safe as they are today.
- **Was** the system efficient back then?

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks

1. The original plan _____ very ambitious.
2. There _____ many obstacles during the construction phase.
3. The roads _____ not suitable for heavy traffic.
4. _____ the engineers confident about their timeline?
5. The final result _____ impressive.

2. Past Simple

Used to describe completed actions at a specific time in the past.

Examples:

- The government launched a large infrastructure program in 1955.
- They did not use modern machinery.
- Did the team meet the deadline?

Exercise 2: Fill in the blanks

1. They _____ (begin) the project in 1956.
2. The workers _____ (not receive) proper training.
3. _____ the new system _____ (reduce) traffic accidents?
4. The plan _____ (fail) due to lack of support.
5. Engineers _____ (face) many technical problems.

3. Past Continuous

Used to describe actions that were happening at a specific time in the past.

Examples:

- While the government was investing, the public was doubting the project.

- Many engineers were working overtime.
- Were they building new tunnels at that time?

Exercise 3: Match the ideas

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. While people were driving, _____ | a. they were listening to the news. |
| 2. The team was _____ | b. facing serious delays. |
| 3. They were not _____ | c. considering long-term consequences. |
| 4. Was the government _____ | d. making adjustments to the plan? |

Reading: Modern Infrastructure and Historical Progress – The Japanese Example

Japan's impressive highway system is often regarded as a symbol of its post-war recovery. In the 1950s, roads were narrow and poorly maintained. The government quickly realized the need for improvement. As a result, officials launched an ambitious plan to transform national transportation.

While the workers were constructing the highways, engineers were designing intelligent layouts. These systems eventually connected major cities, promoted economic growth, and reduced traffic congestion. At the same time, citizens were adapting to the increased mobility that came with modern roads.

Currently, Japan's highways are considered among the most efficient in the world. They continue to evolve, integrating AI technology to manage traffic flow in real time.

Comprehension Tasks:

What was the condition of Japan's roads in the 1950s?

What was one major result of the highway construction plan?

How did citizens respond to the changes in transportation?

What modern feature is now used in Japan's highway system?
