TENSES IN ENGLISH:





The following table illustrates the proper use of verb tenses:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Simple Present** | **Simple Past** | **Simple Future** |
| I *read* nearly every day. | Last night, I *read* an entire novel. | I *will read* as much as I can this year. |
| **Present Continuous** | **Past Continuous** | **Future Continuous** |
| I *am reading* Shakespeare at the moment. | I *was reading* Edgar Allan Poe last night. | I *will be reading* Nathaniel Hawthorne soon. |
| **Present Perfect** | **Past Perfect** | **Future Perfect** |
| I *have read* so many books I can’t keep count. | I *had read* at least 100 books by the time I was twelve. | I *will have read* at least 500 books by the end of the year. |
| **Present Perfect Continuous** | **Past Perfect Continuous** | **Future Perfect Continuous** |
| I *have been reading* since I was four years old. | I *had been reading* for at least a year before my sister learned to read. | I *will have been reading* for at least two hours before dinner tonight. |

Exercice 1

Fill in the blanks

1. I ................................ there for two hours and then I went home.

Waited / have waited /had waited

2. She ..................................... six novels so far.

Wrote /has written /had written

3. He ....................................... from Las Vegas yesterday.

Returned /has returned /had returned

4. See that you .................................... no harm.

Cause /have caused /caused

5. The hostess made sure that the guests .................................... enough to eat and drink.

Had /have /had had

6. You will get the job if you ................................................ in the interview.

Succeed /succeeded /had succeeded

7. The doctor concluded that the man ...................................... several hours ago.

Died /has died /had died

8. We ............................................ to hear from him for more than two weeks now.

are waiting /have been waiting /waited

9. The show ....................................... by the time we reached the theatre.

Began /has begun /had begun

10. He ..................................... for work at 8.30.

Leaves /is leaving /will leave

11. Father .................................... the newspaper every morning.

Reads /is reading /has read

12. When I visited him he ........................................ bed-ridden for months.

Was /had been /has been

Exercices 2 : Fill in the blanks

1. We reached the venue before the show .............................

Began /begun /begins

2. Her parents .................................. with her.

Live /are living /have lived

3. We ........................................ in Tlemcen for fifteen years by next January.

will be living /will have been living /are living

4. We ..................................... two tickets before rain interrupted the match.

have lost /had lost /were losing

5. I ..................................... him twice before he went abroad.

Saw /had seen /have seen

6. When I was young, I .................................... exercise every day.

Used /used to /was used to

7. She ...................................... for the US tonight.

Leaves /is leaving /left

8. Water .................................... at 100 degree Celsius.

Boils /is boiling /has boiled

9. We ....................................... in this house for ten years now.

Lived /are living /have lived

10. I ........................................ her if I wanted to.

could marry /could have married /can marry

11. Does she ................................... what she is doing?

Know /knew /know

12. He .................................. to be a scientist.

always wanted /is always wanting /has always wanted

**Exercise 3 Fill in the blanks with an appropriate tense form.**

1. My father ............................... for a brisk walk every evening.

is going /goes /has gone

2. We ……………………………. for Singapore tomorrow.

Leave /are leaving /will leave

3. I ……………………….. all of my problems.

Solved /have solved /had solved

4. I ………………………. to post the letter yesterday.

have forgotten /forgot /had forgotten

5. He ………………………. his breakfast when I visited him.

Had /has /was having

6. I …………………….. him before.

never saw /have never seen /had never seen

7. I ………………………… the problem with the minister last week.

have discussed /discussed /had discussed

8. He said that he ……………………….. the next day.

will come /would come /come

9. The letter ……………………….. yesterday.

Posted /was posted /had posted

10. The teacher ……………………….. the boy for misbehaving in the class.

Reprimanded /reprimands /had reprimanded

11. If you like this book, you ………………………. take it.

Could /can /will

12. He ………………………… president.

Elected /has elected /was elected