GRAMMAR IN BRIEF_SUMMARY OF TENSES with examples

1) PRESENT SIMPLE

FORM: I/you/we/they study he/she/it studies

I/you/we/they don't study he/she/it doesn't study

Do I/you/we/they study? Does he/she/it study?

USED to express:

√ Habits, routines

✓ Timetables, scheduled events

✓ Likes/dislikes/preferences

✓ News titles, narration of plots

EXAMPLES: They usually start work at 9 o'clock.

She works as a nurse at the local hospital. He doesn't like studying on his own. The train departs at 8 o'clock.

2) PRESENT CONTINUOUS

FORM: I am studying You/We/They are studying He/she/ it is studying

I am not studying You/We/They are not studying He/she/it is not studying

Am I studying? Are you/we/they studying? Is he/she/it studying?

USED to express:

✓ Things happening NOW/Now-ish or these days

√ Fixed arrangements/plans

✓ An evolving situation

✓ Annoyance with sth that is happening ALL the time!

EXAMPLES: The students are taking a quiz right now.

We are flying to London next week. My boss is always telling me off!

They aren't travelling to Spain this summer.

3) PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM: I/You/We/They have studied He/she/it has studied

I/You/We/They have not studied He/she/it has not studied

Have I/you/we/they studied?

Has he/she/it studied?

USED to express:

- ✓ sth that has happened recently
- ✓ sth that has been going on for some time

EXAMPLES: I have read this book recently and I loved it!

The students have never sat for an examination before.

Have you ever travelled abroad? Has the lecture started yet?

4) PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: I/You/We/They have been studying He/She/It has been studying

I/You/We/They have not been studying He/She/It has not been studying

Have I/you/we/they been studying? Has he/she/it been studying?

USED to express:

✓ sth recent that is still going on

✓ to emphasize the duration of an action or/and the results of it

EXAMPLES: It has been raining all day and the roads are slippery.

Have they been working here for long?

We have been studying hard for the past few weeks because of the exams.

5) PAST SIMPLE

FORM: I/You/he/she/it/we/they studied

I/You/he/she/it/we/they didn't study

Did I/You/he/she/it/we/they study?

USED to express:

- ✓ events that happened in the past
- ✓ past habits
- √ to narrate past actions/facts

EXAMPLES: Shakespeare lived in the 16th century B.C

They watched the football match last night.

I applied for the job 5 days ago. When I was a kid I did ballet.

6) PAST CONTINUOUS

FORM: I/He/She/It was studying You/We/They were studying

I/He/She/It was not studying You/We/They were not studying

Was I/he/she/it studying? Were you/we/they studying?

USED to express:

- ✓ Background of a story
- ✓ Parallel actions in the past
- ✓ To describe an action evolving in the past

EXAMPLES: It was raining heavily when the accident happened.

While the students were sitting for the exams the teachers were supervising them.

At 10 o'clock last night they were playing cards.

7) PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM: I/You/he/she/it/we/they had studied

I/You/he/she/it/we/they had not studied

Had I/You/he/she/it/we/they studied?

USED to express:

- ✓ past actions
- ✓ past actions that happened before sth else

 ${\it EXAMPLES:}\ \ {\it They had finished all the paperwork before they left for home.}$

By the time I arrived at the office, the meeting had already started.

8) PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: I/You/he/she/it/we/they had been studying

I/You/he/she/it/we/they had not been studying

Had I/You/he/she/it/we/they been studying?

USED to express:

- ✓ Past event/action with effects
- ✓ Past event/action of some duration and/or visible results

EXAMPLES: It had been snowing for days so the roads were blocked.

They were exhausted because they had been working hard all week.

9) FUTURE SIMPLE

FORM: I/You/he/she/it/we/they will study

I/You/he/she/it/we/they will not study

Will I/You/he/she/it/we/they study?

USED to express:

✓ on the spot decisions/offering to do sth

√ future actions/predictions

EXAMPLES: She will help you if you ask her.

It will probably rain later.

I am sure you will pass the exams.

10) FUTURE CONTINUOUS

FORM: I/You/he/she/it/we/they will be studying

I/You/he/she/it/we/they will not be studying

Will I/You/he/she/it/we/they be studying?

USED to express:

- ✓ future actions that will be happening at a particular time in the future
- ✓ plans or actions as part of daily routine

EXAMPLES: This time tomorrow we will be driving to Scotland. I will be seeing you all tomorrow at work.

11) FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

FORM: I/You/he/she/it/we/they will have studied

I/You/he/she/it/we/they will not have studied

Will I/You/he/she/it/we/they have studied?

USED to express:

✓ sth that will have happened by a certain time in the future

EXAMPLES: By the end of the week we will have completed the project. They will have sent out all the invitations by tomorrow.

12) FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: I/You/he/she/it/we/they will have been studying

I/You/he/she/it/we/they will not have been studying

Will I/You/he/she/it/we/they have been studying?

USED to express:

✓ sth that will have happened by a certain time and for how long...

EXAMPLES: By June I will have been working here for 5 years!

By the end of the week they will have been travelling around the world for 6 months!