

**Course: English composition 1**

**Course Code: ENGL101**

**Topic: Analytical Paragraph**

**Skill: Grammar**

There are three main verb forms for showing time or tense:

1. Simple Tense
  - does not use auxiliary verbs.
  - refers to specific time period during which something happens.
  - something happened and is over.
  - something will happen.
2. Simple present (action goes on now): I sit
3. Simple past: (action happened and is over): I sat
4. Simple future (action will happen): I will sit
5. Perfect Tense
  - uses have, has, or had as auxiliary verb.
  - allows action to continue over time.
  - Present perfect (action happened and may still be going on):  
I have sat.
  - Past perfect (action happened before something happened in the past):  
I had sat.
  - Future perfect (action will be considered in the future, by which time it will have already happened): I will have sat.
6. Progressive Tense
  - uses is, are, was, or were as auxiliary verb with -ing ending on main verb
  - focuses on “progress” of action.
  - Present progressive (action is in progress right now): I am sitting

El tiempo de una oración es importante en un párrafo analítico ya que el tiempo puede variar en cada oración y una sola palabra puede cambiar el tiempo.

- Past: progressive (action was in progress in the past): I was sitting
- Future progressive (action will be in progress in the future): I will be sitting
- Each of the above tenses denotes a specific time for an action or event to take place. Writers should be careful to use the exact tense needed to describe, narrate, or explain.

In general

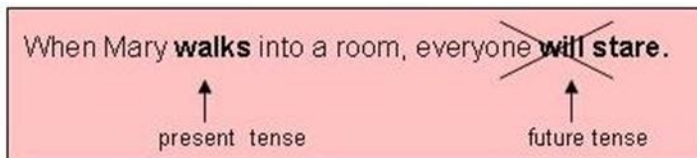
- Do not switch from one tense to another unless the timing of an action demands that you do.
- Keep verb tense consistent in sentences, paragraphs, and essays.

Verb tense consistency on the sentence level

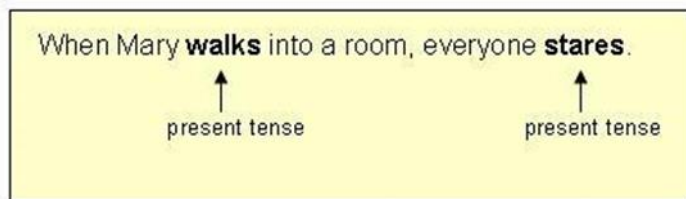
- Keep tenses consistent within sentences.
- Do not change tenses when there is no time change for the action.

**Example:**

INCORRECT:



CORRECT:



The above sentence means that Mary walks into a room at times. The action is habitual present. The second action happens when the first one does. Therefore, the second verb should be present as well.

<https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/tenseconsistency.htm>

**Exercise:**

Instructions: Complete these sentences, using the tense suggested.

1. We stand patiently, hoping that \_\_\_\_\_. (Use future tense)
2. Advertisers seem to believe that \_\_\_\_\_. (Use present tense)
3. By the time the fog lifted, \_\_\_\_\_. (Use past perfect tense)
4. We will leave for Florida as soon as \_\_\_\_\_. (Use present tense)

**Web Resources:**

Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYYNfpRv\\_Wg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYYNfpRv_Wg)

**References:**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/2/22/50/>