

Teacher's notes. Review of tenses

1. Table of tenses (Activity 1) 15 mins

Aims: to review the difference between different tenses and to give students reference material for the tasks in the lesson

Procedure: students fill in the chart with examples and signal words

Tense	Example	Signal words
Present Simple	I study	always, every ..., never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually
Present Continuous	I am studying	at the moment, just, just now, Listen!, Look!, now, right now
Past Simple	I studied	yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday
Past Continuous	I was studying	while, as long as
Future Simple	I will study	in a year, next ..., tomorrow, in one year, next week,
Future Continuous	I will be studying	in a year, next ..., tomorrow, in one year, next week,
Present Perfect	I have studied	already, ever, just, never, not yet, so far, till now, up to now
Present Perfect Continuous	I have been studying	all day, for 4 years, since 1993, how long?, the whole week
Past Perfect	I had studied	already, just, never, not yet, once, until that day
Past Perfect Continuous	I had been studying	for, since, the whole day, all day

Future Perfect	I will have studied	by Monday, in a week
Future Perfect Continuous	I will have been studying	for ..., the last couple of hours, all day long

2. What is the difference? (Activity 2) 10 mins

Aims: to review the difference between different tenses.

Procedure: students discuss in pairs the difference between each pair of sentences, then check the answers open class.

Answers:

1. a) I work for a multinational company - **fact about me**
b) I'm working for a multinational company - **temporary action**
2. a) What were you doing when I called? - **action taking place at that moment**
b) What did you do when I called? - **action taking place after I called**
3. a) When we arrived, he gave a speech. - **first we arrived, then he gave a speech**
b) When we arrived, he was giving a speech. - **he started giving a speech before we arrived**
c) When we arrived, he had given a speech. - **first he gave a speech, then we arrived**
4. a) I've traveled to many countries. - **emphasizing experience**
b) I traveled to many countries. - **talking about an action in the past**
5. a) I've been reading this book today. - **recent, probably unfinished action**
b) I've read this book today. - **recent, probably finished action**

3. What's my job? (Activity 3) 10 mins

Aims: to provide students with controlled speaking practice in using different tenses and to provide speaking for fluency.

Procedure: Ask the students to complete the sentences using the words in brackets. Then the students compare the task in pairs, check the sentences open class.

Organize pair work: student A picks one of the following professions, but doesn't tell the profession to the partner. Student B chooses 5 questions from the list and asks them to determine the profession.

Answers:

How much money have you earned so far this year?

How much money have you earned in your life?

How long have you been working in your present job?

How long will it take you to become boss?

How many people do you supervise?

How many jobs did you have before this job? / How many jobs have you had in your life?

How many years did you have to study at university to get your job?

How many hours do you usually work a day?

How many hours have you worked so far this week? (= since Monday)

How much (= what percentage) of your working day is spent using a computer/ outside/ meeting people/ travelling/ cleaning/ etc?

How many countries have you visited for your work?

How many hours does one job/ task usually take?

How many miles/ kilometres have you travelled so far this year?

How many words have you written this week?

How many people do you meet in an average week (= a normal week)?

How many layers of clothes do you have to wear?

4. Things in common (Activity 4) 15 mins

Aims: to provide students with free speaking practice in using different tenses

Procedure: Students complete the sentences with things that are true for them and they think are also true for their partner. Then they check and respond to their partner's sentences.

5. Ask me anything (Activity 5) 14 mins

Aims: to provide students with free speaking practice in using different tenses

Procedure: students add the missing auxiliary verbs to the questions, monitor closely, if necessary do pair check and open class check. Then the students take turns to interview each other.

Answers:

What do you do?

What did you do before that?

What would you like to do in the future?

Are you studying anything at the moment?

What did you study at university?/ What was your favourite subject at school?

Would you like to study anything in the future?

What do you do in your free time?

What did you like doing when you were a child?

Are there any new hobbies you'd like to take up?

Have you visited many foreign countries?

What was the last foreign country you visited?

Do you have any plans to go abroad?

Why are you studying English?

Will you need to use English more in the future?

Have you ever taken any English language exams, e.g. IELTS?

Are you planning to take any English exams?

Have you studied English before? Where did you study?

Do you speak any other languages?

Would you like to study any other languages in the future?

What language do you want to study next?

6. Sum up (Activity 7) 1 min

Put errors on the board or whiteboard and let student(s) correct them. Summarise the lesson and tell students what results they have achieved (Now you can ... After our speaking lesson you will be able to....). Ask them if they have any questions.