

## CHAPTER 02

# Tenses

### In this Chapter...

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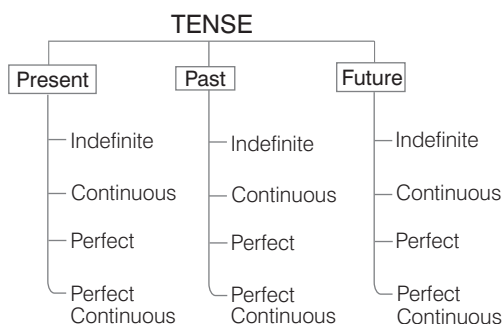
Tense is defined as the form of verb that gives the relation between **Time** and **Action**. In other words the time when the action is done.

There are three phases of time and as a result there are three tenses.

- (i) **present** (time that is now)
- (ii) **past** (time that has passed)
- (iii) **future** (time that is yet to come)

## Classification of Tenses

The three kinds of tenses are further divided into four forms each as given in the chart:



## Present Tense (Present Indefinite Tense)

This tense is also called simple present tense.

It is used in the following ways

- (i) To express a habit or custom.  
e.g. She gets up every morning at 6 o'clock.
- (ii) To talk about a general or universal truth.  
e.g. The Earth revolves around the Sun.
- (iii) To indicate a definite future event.  
e.g. The school reopens next week.
- (iv) To introduce quotes with the verb 'says'.  
e.g. Newton says, "Every action has an equal and an opposite reaction."

### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- Singular subject + first form of verb + s/es + .....
- Plural subject + first form of verb + .....
- e.g. (a) They play cricket in the ground.
- (b) Water boils at 100°C.
- (c) She advises me not to smoke.

### Rules for Negative Sentences

- Singular subject + does not + first form of verb + .....
- Plural subject + do not + first form of verb + .....
- e.g. (a) Reena does not watch television.
- (b) We do not smoke.

### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Do/does + subject + first form of verb + .....?
- Question word + do/does + subject + first form of verb + .....?  
e.g. (a) Do you play cricket?  
(b) Does she wash clothes?  
(c) Why do you weep now?  
(d) Whose book do you read?

### Present Continuous Tense

This tense is used in the following ways

- (i) To describe an action in progress and the continuity of the action.  
e.g. The passengers are wandering to and for.
- (ii) An action that has been pre-arranged to take place in the near future.  
e.g. The wedding is going to take place on Sunday.
- (iii) Persistent and undesirable habit, especially with adverbs like *always*, *continually*, *constantly* etc.  
e.g. (a) You are always running me down.  
(b) He is constantly gazing at me.

### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- Singular subject + is/am + first form of verb + ing + .....
- Plural subject + are + first form of verb + ing + .....  
e.g. (a) I am playing a game.  
(b) She is reading a book.  
(c) We are going to Shimla.

### Rules for Negative Sentences

- Singular subject + is/am + not + first form of verb + ing + .....
- Plural subject + are + not + first form of verb + ing + .....  
e.g. (a) Ram is not surfing the internet.  
(b) They are not watching a movie.  
(c) I am not swimming in the water.

### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Is/are/am + subject + first form of verb + ing + ...?
- Question word + is/are/am + subject + first form of verb + ing + ..... ?  
e.g. (a) Is Reena cooking the food?  
(b) Are you not writing a letter?  
(c) What is Raveena doing here?  
(d) Why was the camel not drinking water?

### Present Perfect Tense

This tense is used in the following ways

- (i) To express an action that has recently been completed.  
e.g. She has just taken tea.
- (ii) To describe an action whose time is not given.  
e.g. Have you done M. Sc in Maths?

- (iii) To describe past events whose effect still exists.  
e.g. I have finished my work and now I am free.
- (iv) To show how a past situation relates to the present.  
e.g. I've done my homework, so I can help you with yours now.

### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- Singular subject + has + third form of verb + .....
- Plural subject + have + third form of verb + .....  
e.g. (a) She has gone to the market.  
(b) They have bathed.

### Rules for Negative Sentences

- Singular subject + has + not + third form of verb + .....
- Plural subject + have + not + third form of verb + .....  
e.g. (a) I have not called him.  
(b) The train has not gone.

### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Has/have + subject + third form of verb + .....?
- Question word + has/have + subject + third form of verb + ..... ?  
e.g. (a) Has she gone to Delhi?  
(b) Have they not seen the Taj Mahal yet?  
(c) What have they eaten today?  
(d) Why has the peon not come yet?

### Present Perfect Continuous Tense

This tense is also called present perfect progressive tense.

This tense is used in the following ways

- (i) To describe an action that began in the past and is still continuing.  
e.g. They have been staying in the village for a long time.
- (ii) To express an action already completed, but whose effect is still continuing.  
e.g. I have been running around for the job all day and am now tired.

### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- Singular subject + has + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + for/since + .....
- Plural subject + have + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + for/since + .....  
e.g. (a) Arpit has been sleeping since 6 o'clock.  
(b) They have been running for three hours.

### Rules for Negative Sentences

- Singular subject + has + not + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + for/since + .....

- Plural subject + have + not + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + for/since +.....  
e.g. (a) You have not been suffering from fever for one week.  
(b) Reena has not been going to music class for 2 months.

#### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Has/Have + subject + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for +.....?
- Question word + has/have + subject + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + .....?  
e.g. (a) Have you been sleeping since 8 o'clock?  
(b) Has he not been living in this house for a long time?  
(c) Why have they been playing football since morning?

### Past Tense (Past Indefinite Tense)

This tense is also called simple past tense.

It is used in the following ways

- To indicate an action that happened in the past. It is used often in recounts and narratives.  
e.g. I visited the Taj Mahal three months ago.
- To indicate past habits or repeated events that are now over.  
e.g. In those days, my mother gave me some pocket money every day.

#### Rule for Affirmative Sentences

- Subject + second form of verb +.....  
e.g. (a) I played football in the ground.  
(b) She sang a song in the party.

#### Rule for Negative Sentences

- Subject + did not + first form of verb +.....  
e.g. (a) I did not attend the function.  
(b) They did not watch television.

#### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Did + subject + first form of verb + ..... ?
- Question word + did + subject + first form of verb + .....?  
e.g. (a) Did you play a game?  
(b) Why did she abuse her friends?

### Past Continuous Tense

This tense is used in the following ways

- To indicate an action that was happening at some time in the past.  
e.g. We were watching TV the whole evening.

- The past continuous is also used for an action that was going on during a given period or at a period of time in the past.  
e.g. While Rohan was filling in the hole, his dog was digging another.

#### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- Singular subject + was + first form of verb + ing +.....
- Plural subject + were + first form of verb + ing + .....  
e.g. (a) She was driving her car.  
(b) They were making a noise.

#### Rules for Negative Sentences

- Singular subject + was + not + first form of verb + ing +.....
- Plural subject + were + not + first form of verb + ing +.....  
e.g. (a) She was not singing a song.  
(b) They were not eating mangoes.

#### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Was/were + subject + first form of verb + ing +.....?
- Question word + was/were + subject + first form of verb + ing +.....?  
e.g. (a) Were you eating a mango?  
(b) When was the milkman milking the cow?  
(c) Why was the blind boy crying?

### Past Perfect Tense

This tense is used in the following ways

- To indicate an action that was completed before a definite time or before another action that took place in the past.  
e.g. The patient had died before the doctor reached the hospital.
- It indicates desires in the past that have not been fulfilled.  
e.g. I wish I had not wasted my time.

#### Rule for Affirmative Sentences

Subject + had + third form of verb + .....  
e.g. She had cooked the food.

#### Rule for Negative Sentences

Subject + had + not + third form of verb + ...  
e.g. They had not attended the function.

#### Rule for Interrogative Sentences

Had + subject + third form of verb + ..... ?  
Question word + had + subject + third form of verb + .....?  
e.g. (a) Had she watched a movie?  
(b) Why had you not gone to Delhi?

## Past Perfect Continuous Tense

This tense is also called past perfect progressive tense.

This tense indicates an action which began in the past and continued up to a certain point of time in the past.

e.g. When we met in Lucknow, she had been studying in city college for 3 years.

### Rule for Affirmative Sentences

- Subject + had been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + .....
- e.g. (a) You had been suffering from fever since Tuesday.
- (b) I had been studying for three hours.

### Rule for Negative Sentences

- Subject + had + not + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + .....
- e.g. They had not been going to office since the 5th of July.

### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Had + subject + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + .....?
- Question word + had + subject + been + first form of verb + ing + .....since/for+..... ?
- e.g. (a) Had you not been reading the book since morning?
- (b) Where had he been playing since morning?

## Future Tense (Future Indefinite Tense)

This tense is also called simple future tense.

It is used to say what we believe or think will happen in future.

e.g. I believe she will join the office tomorrow.

### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- You/He/She/It/They (Second and Third Person Pronouns) + will + first form of verb + .....
- I/We (First Person Pronouns) + shall + first form of verb + .....
- e.g. (a) He will sell his house.
- (b) I shall purchase a new car.

### Rules for Negative Sentences

- You/He/She/It/They (Second and Third Person Pronouns) + will + not + first form of verb + .....
- I/We (First Person Pronouns) + shall + not + first form of verb + .....
- e.g. (a) My friend will not host dinner this evening.
- (b) We shall not skip the exams.

### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Will/Shall+ subject + first form of verb + .....?
- Question word + will/shall + subject + first form of verb + .....?

- e.g. (a) Will she not come in the party?
- (b) Who will help him?
- (c) Why will your friend not come here?

## Future Continuous Tense

This tense is used in the following ways

- (i) To indicate an action that will occur in the normal course.  
e.g. She will be cooking the food tomorrow.
- (ii) To indicate an action that will be in progress at a given point of time in the future.  
e.g. At this time tomorrow, we shall be attending the party.

### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- You/He/She/It/They (Second and Third Person Pronouns) + will + be + first form of verb + ing + .....
- I/We (First Person Pronouns) + shall + be + first form of verb + ing + .....
- e.g. (a) Next year my teacher will be going to China.
- (b) I shall be teaching my students.

### Rules for Negative Sentences

- You/He/She/It/They (Second and Third Person Pronouns) + will + not + be + first form of verb + ing + .....
- I/We (First Person Pronouns) + shall + not + be + first form of verb + ing + .....
- e.g. (a) They will not be studying in city college.
- (b) I shall not be bathing this evening.

### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Will/shall + subject + be + first form of verb + ing + .....?
- Question word + will/shall + subject + be + first form of verb + ing + .....?
- e.g. (a) Will this boy be wandering in the forest?
- (b) How long will they be travelling?

## Future Perfect Tense

This tense is used to describe an action which will be completed at some point of time in the future.

e.g. I shall have finished this work by tomorrow.

### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- You/He/She/It/They (Second and Third Person Pronouns) + will + have + third form of verb + .....
- I/We (First Person Pronouns) + shall + have + third form of verb + .....
- e.g. (a) Your examination will have been over by Tuesday.
- (b) We shall have cooked the food by the evening.

### Rules for Negative Sentences

- You/He/She/It/They (Second and Third Person Pronouns) + will + not + have + third form of verb + .....
- I/We (First Person Pronouns) + shall + not + have + third form of verb + .....  
e.g. (a) The passengers will not have reached the station before the train starts.  
(b) Your brother will not have read this novel before next Saturday.  
(c) I shall not have written the letter by noon.

### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Will/shall + subject + have + third form of verb + .....?
- Question word + will/shall + subject + have + third form of verb + .....?  
e.g. (a) Will he not have gone before I reach?  
(b) What will he have eaten before he sleeps?

### Future Perfect Continuous Tense

This tense is also called future perfect progressive tense.

This tense is used in the following ways

It describes an action that will be in progress over a period of time that will end in the future.

e.g. At noon, Anuradha will have been singing songs for an hour.

### Rules for Affirmative Sentences

- You/He/She/It/They (Second and Third Person Pronouns) + will + have + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + .....
- I/We (First Person Pronouns) + shall + have + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + .....  
e.g. By next April we shall have been leaving for the USA.

### Rules for Negative Sentences

- You/He/She/It/They (Second and Third Person Pronouns) + will + not + have + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + .....
- I/We (First Person Pronouns) + shall + not + have + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + .....  
e.g. (a) Mahima will not have been going to Kanpur for a long time.  
(b) I shall not have been writing for half an hour.

### Rules for Interrogative Sentences

- Will/shall + subject + have + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + ..... ?
- Question word + will/ shall + subject + have + been + first form of verb + ing + ..... + since/for + ..... ?  
e.g. (a) Will she have been playing for some time?  
(b) Why will you not have been going to school since 8 o'clock?

# Chapter Practice

## PART 1

### Objective Questions

#### • Multiple Choice Questions

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 1-15) Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks in the given sentence.

1. In 1619, the first African slaves ..... in Virginia, USA and by 1790, their numbers ..... nearly 700,000.

(a) were arriving / have been reaching  
(b) arrived / had reached  
(c) have arrived / were reaching  
(d) were going to arrive / reach

**Ans.** (b) arrived / had reached

2. We ..... a lovely view of the Bosphorus and the bridges over it while the plane ..... over Istanbul.

(a) are getting / flies                      (b) had got / is flying  
(c) got / was flying                      (d) get / has flown

**Ans.** (c) got / was flying

3. When they ..... in Sydney Harbour, they ..... nonstop for three months.

(a) anchor / will have been sailing  
(b) were anchoring / sailed  
(c) have anchored / were sailing  
(d) are anchoring / have been sailing

**Ans.** (a) anchor / will have been sailing

4. According to the new schedule the whole team has accepted, we ..... every Monday and Wednesday next term, but I'm sure we ..... back to our normal routine of once a week before long.

(a) had trained / revert  
(b) train / have reverted  
(c) are training / reverted  
(d) are going to train / will revert

**Ans.** (d) are going to train / will revert

5. The prospector ran into town in excitement because, at last, he ..... some gold at the site which he ..... for months.

(a) was finding / was panning  
(b) will find / is going to pan  
(c) will have found / has panned  
(d) had found / had been panning

**Ans.** (d) had found / had been panning

6. I expect you ..... bored with working at the Post Office by this time next year and ..... for a more interesting job.

(a) have become / will have looked  
(b) will have become / will be looking  
(c) had found / had been panning  
(d) found / will have panned

**Ans.** (b) will have become / will be looking

7. Listen! The coach ..... the strengths of our opponents because our team ..... against them before.

(a) has explained / weren't playing  
(b) explains / won't play  
(c) is explaining / hasn't played  
(d) will explain / hadn't been playing

**Ans.** (c) is explaining / hasn't played

8. When I ..... the alterations to the company accounts, I was left in no doubt that the accountant ..... money from the firm.

(a) saw / had been stealing  
(b) am seeing / has stolen  
(c) was seeing / was stealing  
(d) have seen / will have stolen

**Ans.** (a) saw / had been stealing

9. According to the doctor, this time next week, I ..... around as normal and the cut on my foot ..... completely.

(a) am walking / healed  
(b) will be walking / will have healed  
(c) walked / was healing  
(d) have been walking / heals

**Ans.** (b) will be walking / will have healed



**10.** Shadow puppets ..... in China and ..... as far as Turkey and Greece today.

- (a) will originate / have been spreading
- (b) are originating / will be spreading
- (c) originate / had spread
- (d) originated / have spread

**Ans.** (d) originated / have spread

**11.** Over recent years, many skilled craftsmen and women ..... their jobs in the pottery trade in the UK, but gradually English porcelain ..... its reputation.

- (a) will have lost / will regain
- (b) had been losing / has regained
- (c) are losing / regained
- (d) have lost / is regaining

**Ans.** (d) have lost / is regaining

**12.** After she ..... to turn up for our appointment for the third time, I ..... to meet her again.

- (a) is failing / am refusing
- (b) has failed / had refused
- (c) was failing / will refuse
- (d) had failed / refused

**Ans.** (d) had failed / refused

**13.** Since I took part in my first debating match, I ..... a member of the debating club, which I ..... most weekends.

- (a) will have been / have attended
- (b) have been / attend
- (c) will be / was attending
- (d) am / had been attending

**Ans.** (b) have been / attend

**14.** By the first half of the 19th century, potato ..... the staple food in the Ireland. In 1854, a disease ....., which resulted in widespread starvation.

- (a) was becoming / has struck
- (b) will become / was going to strike
- (c) had become / struck
- (d) was going to become / strikes

**Ans.** (c) had become / struck

**15.** The origins of domestic poultry ..... uncertain, but experts believe that some breeds are descended from the Indian jungle-fowl, which still ..... in India today.

- (a) had been / will have existed
- (b) were / had been existing
- (c) are / exists
- (d) have been / existed

**Ans.** (c) are / exists

## ● Gap Filling

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 16-20) Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks in the given passage.

The first half of the 20th century was dominated by the two World Wars. The wars resulted in unprecedented numbers of casualties. Eight and a half million people are believed .....(16)..... fighting in the First World War of 1914-1918. During the Second World War as many as 60 million .....(17)..... in Asia and the Pacific. From all the total number of casualties, half .....(18)..... civilians. The scale of .....(19)..... was largely due to the destructive power of weaponry. With the use of atomic bomb at the end of the Second World War, this reached too terrifying a peak that the major powers .....(20)..... to prevent international wars.

- 16.** (a) that they died (b) having died  
(c) to have died (d) died

**Ans.** (c) to have died

- 17.** (a) killed (b) killing  
(c) having been killed (d) were killed

**Ans.** (d) were killed

- 18.** (a) were (b) had been  
(c) are (d) is believed to be

**Ans.** (a) were

- 19.** (a) kills (b) killing  
(c) killed (d) kill

**Ans.** (b) killing

- 20.** (a) have tried (b) will have been trying  
(c) tried (d) will try

**Ans.** (c) tried

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 21-25) Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks in the given passage.

Turkey's annual information technology fair, CEBIT Bilisim Eurasia, this year aims to attract a diverse crowd into a society debate, especially .....(21)..... the use of Internet technologies in government. CEBIT Bilisim Eurasia .....(22)..... to host visitors from over 70 countries as well as members of the press from nearly 20 countries. Under the theme of 'Competitive Edge', Bilisim Summit 2007 and Forum Bilisim .....(23)..... how to improve the competitive power of countries, organisations and individuals by .....(24)..... ICT technologies. CEBIT Bilisim Eurasia .....(25)..... this year at the TUYAP Beylikdüzü Fair.

- 21.** (a) being concerned (b) concerned  
(c) having concerned (d) concerning

**Ans.** (d) concerning

- 22.** (a) expects (b) is expected  
(c) will be expected (d) had expected

**Ans.** (a) expects

- 23.** (a) discussed (b) will be discussing  
(c) will discuss (d) has discussed

**Ans.** (c) will discuss

- 24.** (a) having used (b) used  
(c) using (d) use

**Ans.** (c) using

- 25.** (a) has staged (b) had been staged  
(c) was staged (d) will be staged

**Ans.** (d) will be staged

## • Transformation of Sentences

**Directions** (Q. Nos. 26-40) Change the tense of the following sentences as directed without changing their meaning.

- 26.** Change into Simple Present Tense.  
Anand was breathing oxygen from the cylinder.

- (a) Anand breathe oxygen from the cylinder.  
(b) Anand breathes oxygen from the cylinder.  
(c) Anand is breathing oxygen from the cylinder.  
(d) Anand took a breath of oxygen from the cylinder.

**Ans.** (b) Anand breathes oxygen from the cylinder.

- 27.** Change into Simple Past Tense.  
But I have taken my revenge at last.

- (a) But I had taken my revenge at last.  
(b) But I taken my revenge at last.  
(c) But I took my revenge at last.  
(d) But I have my revenge at last.

**Ans.** (c) But I took my revenge at last.

- 28.** Change into Future Perfect Continuous Tense.

I had been working for Anil.

- (a) I will have worked for Anil.  
(b) I will work for Anil.  
(c) I will be working for Anil.  
(d) I will have been working for Anil.

**Ans.** (d) I will have been working for Anil.

- 29.** Change into Past Continuous Tense.

Dingko Singh had inspired many youngsters in Manipur.

- (a) Dingko Singh did inspiring many youngsters in Manipur.  
(b) Dingko Singh had been inspiring many youngsters in Manipur.  
(c) Dingko Singh was being inspired many youngsters in Manipur.  
(d) Dingko Singh was inspiring many youngsters in Manipur.

**Ans.** (d) Dingko Singh was inspiring many youngsters in Manipur.

- 30.** Change into Simple Future Tense.  
What are we doing?

- (a) What shall we be doing?  
(b) What shall we have been doing?  
(c) What shall we do?  
(d) What shall be done?

**Ans.** (c) What shall we do?

- 31.** Change into Present Perfect Tense.  
She had an eager interest in athletics.

- (a) She had have an eager interest in athletics.  
(b) She had had an eager interest in athletics.  
(c) She has an eager interest in athletics.  
(d) She has had an eager interest in athletics.

**Ans.** (c) She has an eager interest in athletics.

- 32.** Change into Past Perfect Tense.  
The chairs were being arranged.

- (a) The chairs had arranged.  
(b) The chairs had been arranged.  
(c) The chairs were arranged.  
(d) The chairs had had arranged.

**Ans.** (b) The chairs had been arranged.

- 33.** Change into Simple Future Tense.

He was kidnapped by an extremist militia.

- (a) He will be kidnapped by an extremist militia.  
(b) He will have been kidnapped by an extremist militia.  
(c) He will be kidnapping by an extremist militia.  
(d) He will kidnapped by an extremist militia.

**Ans.** (a) He will be kidnapped by an extremist militia.

- 34.** Change into Present Continuous Tense.

Will you train your child to be a boxer as well?

- (a) Are you training your child to be a boxer as well?  
(b) Were you training your child to be a boxer as well?  
(c) Will you have been training your child to be a boxer as well?  
(d) Are you being trained to be a boxer as well?

**Ans.** (a) Are you training your child to be a boxer as well?

- 35.** Change into Future Perfect Tense.

I had a cup of coffee in the morning.

- (a) I will have had a cup of coffee in the morning.  
(b) I will have a cup of coffee in the morning.  
(c) I shall be having a cup of coffee in the morning.  
(d) I will had a cup of coffee in the morning.

**Ans.** (b) I will have had a cup of coffee in the morning.

- 36.** Change into Past Perfect Continuous Tense.

I shall be telling you three stories.

- (a) I am telling you three stories.  
(b) I had been telling you three stories.  
(c) I was telling you three stories.  
(d) I was being told to tell you three stories.

**Ans.** (b) I had been telling you three stories.



**37. Change into Future Perfect Continuous Tense.**

I had been working for Anil.

- (a) I will have been worked for Anil.
- (b) I will be working for Anil.
- (c) I shall had been working for Anil.
- (d) I will have been working for Anil.

**Ans.** (d) I will have been working for Anil.

**38. Change into Simple Future Tense.**

Every Fortnight a flower blooms on it.

- (a) Every Fortnight a flower will bloom on it.
- (b) Every Fortnight a flower will be blooming on it.
- (c) Every Fortnight a flower will have bloomed on it.
- (d) Every Fortnight a flower will have bloomed on it.

**Ans.** (a) Every Fortnight a flower will bloom on it.

**39. Change into Present Continuous Tense.**

Manolin had been forced by his parents.

- (a) Manolin has been forced by his parents.
- (b) Manolin is being forced by his parents.
- (c) Manolin is forced by his parents.
- (d) Manolin was forced by his parents.

**Ans.** (b) Manolin is being forced by his parents.

**40. Change into Past Continuous Tense.**

Do you remember your first arithmetic lesson?

- (a) Were you remembering your first arithmetic lesson?
- (b) Did you remember your first arithmetic lesson?
- (c) Had you remembered your first arithmetic lesson?
- (d) Are you remembering your first arithmetic lesson?

**Ans.** (a) Were you remembering your first arithmetic lesson?