

An Assam ELTI Publication

TENSES  
AND  
THE TEACHING

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### **SUMMING UP :**

There are practically 2 tenses in English- the past and the present to indicate 3 time-frames of the past, the present and the future.

Special and exceptional uses of the tenses and sub tenses should be stressed. It may be advised that use of each tense (sub tense) be shown and drilled in all the 4 forms simultaneously to the learners with the help of tables of form-arrangement.

The behaviour and the pattern of the verb *(to) be* must be thoroughly explained to the learners. The same may be done in respect of the verb *(to) do*. Both have peculiar use in English. The concept of *indefinite* and *definite*, *progressive* and *perfective progressive* and *perfective* nature of verbs has to be clear to the learners. This has to be done by steps from easy to difficult.

There are several ways to denote future time. It is basically the mood of action that determines the futurity which is expressed by means of modal auxiliaries or semi-auxiliaries or by simple present, past or even progressive forms.

Verbs that are not to be used with the progressive should be known to the learners with exceptions.

Tense-sense is best internalized through situational teaching and demonstrations.

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**Price : Rs. 7**

**ELTIA  
PUBLICATION NO 3**