# Student Mentoring: Tenses Tricks and Tips

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**Abstrak**

Bahasa Inggris merupakan salah satu kompetensi penting di era globalisasi, khususnya dalam penguasaan tata bahasa, termasuk tenses, yang berperan penting dalam menyampaikan waktu dan tindakan dalam komunikasi. Namun, banyak siswa menghadapi kesulitan dalam memahami dan menggunakan tenses secara efektif. Untuk mengatasi masalah ini, diperlukan pendekatan yang relevan dan inovatif. Melalui metode penelitian kepustakaan, penelitian ini mengkaji berbagai literatur untuk mengidentifikasi trik dan tips efektif dalam mempelajari tenses. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memberikan panduan yang membantu siswa lebih memahami tenses dan meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa Inggrisnya.

**Kata kunci :** *Trik, Tips, Tenses*

**Abstract**

English is one of the essential competencies in the era of globalization, particularly in mastering grammar, including tenses, which play a crucial role in conveying time and actions in communication. However, many students face difficulties in understanding and effectively using tenses. To address this issue, relevant and innovative approaches are needed. Through the library research method, this study examines various literature to identify effective tricks and tips for learning tenses. This research aims to provide a guide that helps students better understand tenses and improve their English language skills.

**Keyword :** *Tricks, Tips, Tenses*

## INTRODUCTION

English proficiency, particularly in grammar, is one of the essential competencies that students must master in this era of globalization. One of the main components of English grammar is the understanding of tenses, which serve to indicate time and situations in a sentence.[1] However, based on observations and teaching experiences, many students face difficulties in comprehending and correctly using tenses.

These difficulties are caused by several factors, including a lack of understanding of the basic concepts of tenses, limited use of engaging teaching methods, and insufficient practice relevant to daily life.[2] Some students perceive tenses as overly complicated due to the numerous rules, such as verb changes, sentence structures for affirmative, negative, and interrogative forms, as well as their use in various contexts.

Furthermore, traditional approaches often used by teachers, such as memorizing formulas without practical applications, make students feel bored and find it difficult to relate the material to real-life communication. This leads to low motivation among students to learn tenses, ultimately affecting their ability to speak, write, and comprehend English effectively.

Therefore, an effective mentoring program for students, accompanied by engaging tricks and tips, is necessary to help them overcome the challenges of learning tenses. This approach should not only focus on theoretical mastery but also encourage students to actively practice and understand the application of tenses in everyday life. With relevant tricks and tips, students are expected to improve their understanding of tenses, enhance their grammatical skills, and build confidence in using English.

Such mentoring programs are crucial to addressing tenses learning challenges among students and supporting the overall improvement of English language education in schools. To address these challenges, effective mentoring programs tailored to students' needs are essential. By incorporating engaging tricks and practical tips, teachers can help students grasp the concept of tenses more easily and apply them confidently in their daily interactions. These methods not only simplify the learning process but also encourage students to actively participate and enhance their understanding of *tenses*.

This study focuses on providing a comprehensive framework for mentoring students in learning *tenses*, emphasizing innovative approaches that make the learning process enjoyable, interactive, and effective. It aims to bridge the gap between theoretical understanding and practical application, ensuring students can use *tenses* accurately in both spoken and written English

**Student Mentoring**

Student Mentoring is a process in which educators or mentors guide, support, and motivate students to reach specific learning goals. The role of mentoring in the context of teaching *tenses* is to assist students in understanding complex grammatical rules and help them apply these rules effectively in communication, both written and spoken.[3] Mentoring becomes essential because *tenses* can often be confusing for students, especially when learning a new language. A mentor's support can simplify the learning process by offering individualized attention, explanations, and strategies that address the unique needs and difficulties each student faces.

Santrock (2018) highlights that effective mentoring goes beyond just delivering knowledge. It involves establishing positive relationships between the mentor and the student, using teaching methods that are relevant and engaging, and adjusting the learning approach based on the specific requirements of each student.[4] This personalized guidance helps students not only grasp the rules of *tenses* but also build confidence in using them in real-life situations.

In summary, student mentoring in the context of learning *tenses* is an approach that focuses on creating a supportive and engaging learning environment, helping students apply their knowledge practically while ensuring that the learning process is effective and enjoyable.

**Understanding Tenses**

According to Azar (1999), understanding tenses requires knowledge of verb form changes, *sentence* structure, and the context in which the tenses are used. Mastery of tenses is essential for conveying precise meanings in communication, whether speaking or writing.[5] *Tenses* are a crucial aspect of English grammar used to express the time and duration of an action or event. There are four main categories of tenses:

**Table: 1.1 Tenses in English grammar are used to indicate**

| Time / Aspect | Simple | Continuous | Perfect | Perfect Continuous |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Present** | Present Simple | Present Continuous | Present Perfect | Present Perfect Continuous |
| **Past** | Past Simple | Past Continuous | Past Perfect | Past Perfect Continuous |
| **Future** | Future Simple | Future Continuous | Future Perfect | Future Perfect Continuous |
| **Past Future** | Past Future Simple | Past Future Continuous | Past Future Perfect | Past Future Perfect Continuous |

a. Simple:
   1) Present Simple: General actions or habits (e.g., She walks to school every day.)
   2) Past Simple: Actions completed in the past (e.g., They visited Paris last year.)
   3) Future Simple: Actions that will happen (e.g., He will arrive tomorrow.)
   4) Past Future Simple: Actions planned to happen in the future from a past perspective (e.g., She said she would call you.)

b. Continuous:
   1) Present Continuous: Actions happening right now (e.g., I am reading a book.)
   2) Past Continuous: Actions happening in the past (e.g., They were playing soccer.)
   3) Future Continuous: Actions that will happen in the future (e.g., We will be traveling at this time tomorrow.)
   4) Past Future Continuous: Actions that will happen in the future from a past perspective (e.g., She said she would be studying.).[7]
c. Perfect:
   1) Present Perfect: Actions completed, but relevant to the present (e.g., He has completed his homework.)
   2) Past Perfect: Actions completed before another past action (e.g., They had left before the party started.)
   3) Future Perfect: Actions completed before a future time (e.g., She will have finished her project by next week.)
   4) Past Future Perfect: Actions that would have been completed in the future from a past perspective (e.g., He said he would have completed it by then.).[8]
d. Perfect Continuous:
   1) Present Perfect Continuous: Actions that have been ongoing and are still continuing (e.g., She has been studying for hours.)
   2) Past Perfect Continuous: Actions that were ongoing before another past action (e.g., They had been working before the rain started.)
   3) Future Perfect Continuous: Actions that will continue until a specific future time (e.g., By next month, I will have been living here for a year.)
   4) Past Future Perfect Continuous: Actions that would continue until a specific future time from a past perspective (e.g., She said she would have been working for three hours by then.).[9]

Problems in learning *tenses* among students often arise from a lack of solid theoretical understanding and limited practical application relevant to real-life situations. Many students find it difficult to grasp the complex concept of *tenses* due to changes in verb forms, usage rules, and different sentence structures across various time contexts.[10] This difficulty is exacerbated by monotonous teaching methods, such as rote memorization of formulas without providing real-life experiences or practical applications.

**Innovative Approaches in Tense Learning**

Innovative approaches in teaching *tenses* involve using engaging tricks and tips that make the learning process more interactive and effective. These strategies include:
a. Visualization Methods: Using time diagrams or timelines to help students understand the relationship between time and actions. This visual representation makes it easier for students to grasp the concept of how tenses are used in relation to time, enhancing their ability to apply them correctly.
b. Mnemonic Techniques: Assisting students in memorizing tense patterns through keywords or acronyms. These memory aids help simplify complex tense rules, making them more accessible and easier to remember. For example, a simple acronym or rhyme might be used to represent the structure of different tenses.
c. Contextual Practice: Providing exercises based on real-life situations to help students understand the practical application of tenses. These activities encourage students to use tenses in contexts they can relate to, enhancing their understanding and retention of the material. By practicing tenses in authentic scenarios, students can see how these grammatical structures are used in everyday communication.[11] These innovative methods are designed to enhance the learning of tenses by making it more engaging, memorable, and directly relevant to students' real-life language use. By incorporating visual aids, mnemonic techniques, and contextual exercises, students are better able to connect abstract grammatical concepts to practical situations.[12] This approach not only improves their understanding of tenses but also boosts their confidence in using them effectively in both spoken and written communication. Through these methods, tense

learning becomes a more interactive and enjoyable experience, encouraging active participation and long-term retention of the material.

**The Role of Tricks and Tips in Tense Learning**

Tricks and tips are simple learning strategies designed to make it easier for students to understand and remember the material. In the context of *tenses*, some effective tricks and tips include:

a. Simple Formulas: Providing simple formulas for each type of tense. These formulas break down the structure of tenses in a way that is easy for students to grasp and apply. For example, a basic formula for the present simple tense might be: Subject + base verb (+s/es for third-person singular).[13]

b. Interactive Practice: Using digital applications or games to practice tenses. These tools engage students through fun, interactive activities that help reinforce their understanding of tenses while keeping them motivated.[14]

c. Use of Songs or Stories: Integrating tense material into songs or stories to make learning more enjoyable. This approach helps students connect tenses to familiar contexts, which enhances their ability to remember and apply them in real-life situations.[15]

According to Marzano (2021), the use of creative and interactive strategies in learning increases material retention and student motivation. By incorporating these methods, students are more likely to stay engaged, retain information longer, and feel motivated to continue their language learning journey.

**METHOD**

The method used in this research is the *library research method*. This approach involves collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing information from existing literature, including books, academic articles, journals, reports, and other relevant sources. The primary goal of library research is to gather secondary data to understand, discuss, and explore a particular topic or research question.[16]

In this case, the library research method is used to examine existing studies and theories on tense learning, as well as educational strategies and teaching methodologies. The research aims to identify best practices, innovative approaches, and challenges in teaching tenses, providing a theoretical foundation for the proposed framework. By reviewing and analyzing various scholarly works, the researcher can develop insights and solutions based on previous research, ensuring that the study is well-supported by existing academic knowledge.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This research offers a solution in the form of a comprehensive framework for student mentoring that integrates innovative approaches. This approach focuses on three main aspects:

**1. Engaging Learning Process:**

This approach focuses on making learning tenses enjoyable by incorporating interactive and fun activities, such as educational games, simulations, and short stories. The idea is to break the monotony and make the learning process less intimidating for students. By engaging them in activities that are both enjoyable and educational, students are more likely to overcome the challenges they face when learning tenses.

Educational games, for instance, can help reinforce tense rules through competitive or cooperative play, while simulations provide realistic contexts in which students can apply tenses in dynamic situations. Short stories, on the other hand, can illustrate tense usage in context, allowing students to see how tenses work in real communication. Ultimately, the goal is to reduce the perceived difficulty of learning tenses and increase student motivation to engage actively in the learning process, thus fostering a deeper understanding of the subject.

**2. Interactivity in Learning:**

This approach emphasizes the importance of interaction in the learning process, particularly between the teacher and students, as well as among the students themselves. By engaging in group discussions, dialogue practices, or creative projects, students can practice

using tenses in a collaborative environment. These interactive activities create opportunities for students to actively apply their understanding of tenses in real-world communication scenarios.

Group discussions allow students to use different tenses in conversations, while dialogue practices help them master the application of tenses in more structured formats. Creative projects, such as writing or role-playing, give students the chance to use tenses in context, improving both their spoken and written communication skills. This hands-on, interactive approach ensures that students not only understand the theoretical aspects of tenses but also develop the ability to use them effectively in everyday communication.

**3. Effective Teaching:**

In this approach, teachers leverage various instructional tools to support students' learning of tenses. Educational technologies, such as animated videos and learning apps, serve as engaging and interactive resources that provide visual and auditory representations of tense concepts. These tools help clarify complex ideas, making them more accessible and easier to understand for students. Additionally, structured learning materials guide students through a step-by-step progression, beginning with the foundational concepts of tenses and advancing to more complex uses.

By using gradual exercises that range from simple to more advanced applications, teachers allow students to build their understanding at a comfortable pace. These exercises offer students the opportunity to practice tenses in different contexts, reinforcing their knowledge and boosting their confidence. As they progress through these levels, students deepen their grasp of tense usage, making it easier for them to apply their learning in both written and spoken communication. This structured and progressive approach ensures that students develop a comprehensive understanding of tenses.

This framework is designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that students not only understand tenses conceptually but also know how to use them in real-life contexts. Through this method, students are expected to improve their overall English language skills, both in writing and speaking, and build self-confidence in using English. As a result, tense learning will no longer be an obstacle, but rather an opportunity to achieve better English proficiency.

To effectively help students understand tenses, a variety of strategies can be employed. One of the most effective approaches is using visualization techniques such as timelines or charts, which help students visually connect time with actions, aiding in the understanding of when and how different tenses are used. Mnemonic devices can also be helpful, encouraging students to create simple acronyms or memory tricks to remember complex tense rules. This is particularly useful for tenses that have multiple forms or exceptions.

Additionally, providing contextual practice through real-life scenarios allows students to apply the tenses in meaningful ways. For instance, students can write about their daily routines using the present simple tense or describe future plans using the future simple tense. Interactive learning tools, such as digital apps and quizzes, offer engaging ways for students to practice tense usage in a dynamic, responsive environment. These tools often simulate conversations or provide timed practice, which can further solidify students' understanding of tenses.

Incorporating stories and songs into lessons also makes learning tenses more engaging and memorable. By identifying tenses in songs or creating their own stories with specific tense usage, students deepen their understanding while enjoying the process. Another effective method is peer teaching, where students explain tense rules to one another, reinforcing their own understanding and boosting their confidence in using tenses correctly.

Lastly, repetition and progression are key. Starting with basic tense concepts and gradually increasing the complexity through consistent practice ensures that students master tenses over time. Weekly reviews and ongoing application in different contexts will help students internalize the material and become more confident in using tenses effectively in their communication.

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the proposed framework for teaching tenses focuses on engaging, interactive, and effective learning strategies to help students understand and apply tenses in real-

life contexts. By incorporating enjoyable activities such as educational games, simulations, and short stories, the learning process becomes less intimidating and more motivating for students. This interactive approach also encourages students to practice tenses in group discussions, dialogue practices, and creative projects, which strengthens their ability to use tenses in both written and spoken communication.

Additionally, the use of educational technologies and structured learning materials ensures that students progress gradually, starting with basic concepts and advancing to more complex applications. Strategies like visualization techniques, mnemonic devices, and peer teaching further support students in mastering tenses. By offering contextual practice and consistent repetition, students can internalize the material and confidently use tenses in various situations. This approach bridges the gap between theory and practice, ultimately enhancing students' English proficiency and self-confidence.

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