**LESSON 2 - Grammar Teaching**

2.1. Types of tenses:

In English, events take place at a certain time relative to the present or the here and now. Note that if no time frame is specified, then the default tense is usually the present tense.

There are four references to the main points of time: Past Perfect, Past, Present and Future. Examples of these are ‘She **had walked**.” for the Past Perfect, “She **walked.**” for the Past, ‘She **walks**.” for the Present, and “She **will walk**.” for the Future. It should also be further noted that every tense is related to these four points of reference in some way or other.

2.1.1 Simple Tenses

The simple tenses (*present simple, past simple*) refer to one of these four main points of reference - a moment of time in relation to the present (now).

2.1.2 - The Simple Present Tense

The **simple present** can refer to either the present time (now) or to a timeless truth.

Examples: *Apples fall from trees*.

                   *The sun rises in the east*.

2.1.3 - The Simple Past Tense

The **simple past** is used for any event that has taken place in the past and it does not matter how far back in the past this has occurred - this is irrelevant. All that matters is that it happened in the past as compared with the present. So, for instance, if we say that *a meteor* ***appeared*** *a billion years ago*, this will require the same tense as the following:

Examples:

*The first atom* ***changed*** *0.0001 milliseconds after the second atom* ***collided*** *with it*.

The **Simple Past Perfect** is not used for something that happened a long time ago and is only used if you are already writing about a past event and then, you refer to something that happened even before that,

Example: *The police officer spoke to the school authorities last Monday. Three months before that, he* ***had warned*** *them about gangs and their activities in the vicinity.*

Note that there is a contextual clue found elsewhere in the sentence that the warning had occurred some time before the reported speech that was made on Monday.

For this reason, the past perfect may appear in narratives as well as a recounting of an incident in which an explanation is required. It is, however, rarely found in other types of text.

2.1.4 - The Simple Future Tense

The **Simple Future tense** is another rare form of tense found in writing, especially in narratives, as these narratives are mainly concerned with the present or the past and do not involve incidents in the future.

 Example:

*I* ***will visit*** *the United States of America with my parents next year.*

2.1.5 - The Simple Present Continuous Tense

The **Continuous Tense** is rarer than the simple tense in writing but it is more frequent in open speech. You use it when you wish to draw attention to the fact that the event happened over a period of time and you will know when to use this tense if you look elsewhere in the sentence, as there is normally a contextual clue to this period of time. The continuous tense mirrors the simple tense and also relates to these four reference points of time.

The **Simple** **Present Continuous tense** is quite rare in written English and the simple present tense is usually used instead. However, this **Present Continuous tense** can often be found in open speech and,when found in writing, it is usually used in open dialogue.

Example:

*“Will you be quiet? I* ***am talking*** *to you now.”*

2.1.6 - The Past Continuous Tense

The **Past Continuous tense** focuses on something that happened over a period of time in the past, rather than at one particular point of time.

Example:

 *“At that time, he* ***was working*** *very hard.”*

2.1.7 - The Past Perfect Continuous Tense

The **Past Perfect Continuous tense** is rare and is used for times when the action occurred before the past action you are describing and when you want to stress that the action had happened over a period of time.

Example:

 *“The turning point came in 2001. For five years before that, the school* ***had been achieving*** *poor results.”*

Note the contextual clues given above:

First, this piece of writing is set in the past - *came* and *2001*.

Then, the school getting poor results happened *for five years before that*.

.3  Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of tenses.

Class Practice: (Written work.)

1. He (join) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this school two years ago as a fresh graduate of NIE.
2. Previously, he  (teach) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a relief teacher at Potong Pasir Secondary School.
3. Now he (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ currently my form teacher and also my Physics teacher.
4. He usually (treat) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us very nicely, especially when we do well in the exams.
5. However, we (behave) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ badly last week when we failed the test.
6. As a result of this incident, he (scold) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us most severely.
7. While he (reprimand) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us at that time, he sounded very angry.
8. He (shake) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his fist at us during this period, causing some of us to tremble.
9. His rage continued until he (storm) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of our classroom with clenched fists.
10. We all (worry) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about what would happen next when he came back into the room.

Teacher’s Answers.

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of tenses.

Class Practice: (Written work.)

1. He (join) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this school two years ago as a fresh graduate of NIE. (joined)
2. Previously, he  (teach) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a relief teacher at Potong Pasir Secondary School. (had been teaching)
3. Now he (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ currently my form teacher and also my Physics teacher. (is)
4. He usually (treat) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us very nicely, especially when we do well in the exams. (treats)
5. However, we (behave) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ badly last week when we failed the test. (behaved)
6. As a result of this incident, he (scold) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us most severely. (scolded)
7. While he (reprimand) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us at that time, he sounded very angry. (was reprimanding)
8. He (shake) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his fist at us during this period, causing some of us to tremble. (was shaking)
9. His rage continued until he (storm) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of our classroom with clenched fists. (stormed)
10. We all (worry) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about what would happen next when he came back into the room. (worried)