

# TENSE/TIME



**TENSE** means a series of verbal forms : “présent”, “passé”.

**TIME** means chronology “actuel”, “révolu”.

**We must first give some attention to the different kinds of meaning a verb may have. Broadly, verbs may refer either to an EVENT (ie a happening thought of as a single occurrence, with a definite beginning and end) or to a STATE (ie a state of affairs which continues over a period, and need not have a well-defined beginning and end).**

**Thus, to be, to know, to live to stay, etc may be considered as STATE VERBS and to get, to come, to leave, to hit, to kill, to declare, etc EVENT VERBS.**

# **I PRESENT TIME**

**It is used to express events which occur at the PRESENT MOMENT.**

## **I-1 PRESENT "HABIT": the simple present tense**

**The following adverbs trigger this tense: always, often, usually, sometimes, every + noun (every time), etc.**

**He ALWAYS wakes up at 6**

## **I- 2 (GENERAL)TRUTH: the simple present tense**

**The earth revolves round the sun.**

**Man is mortal.**

## **I -3 BE +V-ING**

**Witness or and Evidence enlightened by sometimes NOW, AT THE MOMENT, etc.**

**I'm now speaking (Maritime) English**



## II PAST TIME



There's a special issue /problem of past time reference in English,  
the question of how to choose between the use of the preterite /simple  
past and the present perfect

It is understood by past time any event occurring in the past either  
ended or continues in the present time. See the two following examples

He worked at the port for five years (he no longer works there).

He has worked/has been working at the port for five  
years (he's still there).

## II-1 Preterite/Simple past

Rule: V+ED

This tense refers a **DEFINITE TIME** in the past, ie event(s) occurring in the past and ending in the past. So, it is easily understood through the following adverbs or expressions namely yesterday, last + noun (last time), ago, the previous + noun (the previous day), once, formerly, in 2010, the other + noun (the other day), etc

He worked at the port yesterday.

## II-2 Present Perfect

Rule: HAVE + PP(Past Participle)



It is understood by present perfect past-time-related-to –present-time.

So to speak, event(s) taking place in the past and continue(s) in the present time.



## II-2-1 The use of SINCE/FOR

He has worked/has been working at the port SINCE 2007

He has worked/has been working at the port FOR five years

I have spoken/have been speaking( Maritime) English SINCE 2007.

I have spoken/have been speaking( Maritime) English FOR five years.

## II-2-2 The use of EVER, ALREADY, NEVER and YET

- Have you EVER worked at the port?

- Yes I have ALREADY worked there.



No I have NEVER worked there.

- No I haven't YET worked there.

Note: in America English, Preterite is preferred than Past Perfect.

- The expression IT IS/THIS IS THE 1<sup>st</sup> TIME, THE 2<sup>nd</sup> TIME,
- THE n TIME triggers the use of present perfect:

It/This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time I've/have worked at the port.

It/This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time I've/have spoken ( Maritime) English.

### II-3 Past Perfect/Pluperfect

Rule: HAD+ PP

It is understood by Past Perfect, past in the past ie events taking place in the past, the 1<sup>st</sup> one is in past perfect/pluperfect and the other(s) in preterite:



**He had worked at the port when I arrived.**

**After the trainer had left class the trainees started speaking.**

**Note: preterite can sometimes be used instead of past perfect:**

**He worked at the port when I arrived.**

**After the trainer left class the trainees started speaking.**

### **III The use of the modals SHALL/WILL**

**It is understood by these modals the attitude of the speaker toward his utterance.**

#### **III-1 WILL**

**The use of that modal means there is an INHERENCE/a COMPATIBILITY between the subject and the predicate.**

**I WILL go to church on Sundays.(I is a Christian, so it's obvious)**

**I WILL go to mosque on Friday. (I is a Muslim, so it's obvious)**

**I WILL work at the port. (I have the key qualification, so it's obvious)**



### III- 2 SHALL

The use of that modal means there is an INCOMPATIBILITY/a DOUBT between the subject and the predicate.

I SHALL go to church on Sundays.(you are obliged/forced to go)

I SHALL go to mosque on Friday. (you are obliged/forced to go)

I SHALL work at the port.(you are obliged/forced to work because you haven't the key qualification).

Note: the expressions that trigger the –ING forms

1- To be used to:

I'm used to working at the port.

We are used to speaking( Maritime) English.

2- To look forward(s)to:

I'm looking forward(s) to working at the port.







**3- To be worth:**

**It's worth speaking ( Maritime) English.**

**4- What/How about + V-ING**

**What/How about speaking ( Maritime) English.**

**5- It's no good/use:**

**It's no good/use lying if you know the truth.**

**6- Would you mind/Do you mind/I don't mind:**

**Would you mind/Do you mind/I don't mind working at the port?**

**7- I can't help:**

**I can't help speaking ( Maritime) English when I work at the port.**

**8- To stop:**

**Stop smoking.**