RULE SHEET

Mixed tenses: ten verb forms



When does it happen? Is it **finished**, **in progress** or **connected to now**? The **signal words** help you.

tense	use	example	signal words
simple present	habits, facts	She **trains** every day.	every day, usually
present progressive	now	She **is training** now.	now, Look!, Listen!
present perfect	result, experience	She **has already won** three cups.	ever, never, just, already, yet
present perfect progressive	past until now	She **has been training** since 9 am.	since, for, how long
simple past	finished past	She **trained** yesterday.	yesterday, last …, ago
past progressive	in progress in the past	She **was training** when I called.	while, when
past perfect	before another past action	It **had started** before she came.	before, after, by the time
will	predictions, offers, promises	I think she **will win**.	I think, maybe
going to	plans, signs now	She **is going to run** next year.	next year, Look at …!
present progressive (future)	fixed arrangements	She **is meeting** him tomorrow.	tomorrow at 4

Watch out! since + point in time, **for** + period. With since / for, action verbs often take **-ing** (I have been waiting); be, know, like and have (= own) never do: I **have known** her since 2020. Finished time → simple past: I **saw** it yesterday. have / has / had + **3rd form** (go – went – **gone**). After did, does, will: base form.

PRACTICE 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Signal words and tenses

1 Look at the signal words. Tick the correct verb form.

1. Ms Hall _____ the register every morning at half past eight.
   ○ checks ○ is checking ○ has checked
2. Look! The neighbours _____ a tree in their garden.
   ○ plant ○ planted ○ are planting
3. We _____ in this flat since 2019. ○ live ○ have lived ○ lived
4. Two days ago Sam _____ his phone on the bus. ○ has lost ○ lost ○ loses
5. Lily _____ along the beach when she suddenly heard a strange noise.
   ○ walks ○ was walking ○ has walked
6. When Dad got to the shop, it _____ already closed. ○ had ○ has ○ is
7. Look at the dark sky over the hills! It _____.
   ○ is going to snow ○ snowed ○ has snowed
8. She _____ for the bus for twenty minutes, and it still isn't here.
   ○ is waiting ○ has been waiting ○ waited

2 Match the signal words and the tenses. Write the letter.

1. ☐ every weekend
2. ☐ Look! / at the moment
3. ☐ last week, two days ago
4. ☐ while …
5. ☐ ever, never, yet
6. ☐ by the time …

a. past perfect
b. simple present
c. present perfect
d. past progressive
e. will
f. simple past
g. present progressive