TECHNIQUES TO TEACH ENGLISH TENSES

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ABSTRACT

English grammar is difficult to learn for both native and second-language speakers since there are so many intricacies, obscure rules and exceptions. In the past, memorization-based techniques that relied on repetition slowly gave way to more creative methods. Today, we live in a society that prizes literacy and is willing to adapt to more effective methods to achieve the best results in teaching grammar.

Research is careful and organized study or gathering of information about a specific topic. My research paper is based on **"Techniques to Teach English Tenses."** We all know that the English tenses are called the "Heart" of the English language. The word 'Tense' comes from the Latin word "Tempus" which means 'Time'. The fundament of the English language is the correct usage of the tenses. To motivate the students to learn tenses means to awaken curiosity towards the value of English language. It also means to introduce them to the roots of this language. In grammar, tense is a category that expresses time reference. Tenses are usually manifested by the use of specific forms of verbs. The concept of tense in English is a method that we use to refer to time - past, present and future. Many languages use tense to talk about time. According to the traditional grammarians, there are only two tenses in English: (1) Present Tense and (2) Past Tense. That is because we make those two tenses with the verb alone - *he eats, he ate.* They do not consider that *he will eat, he is eating* or *he has eaten* (for example) are tenses because they are not formed solely from the verb "eaten". The modern grammarians say that there are main three tenses: **(1) Present Tense (2) Past Tense and (3) Future Tense.** There are twelve basic tenses in English language.

KEY WORDS: Tense, Close ended questions, Open ended questions, Cut - up passage etc.

What is Tense? (Various Definitions)

"A tense is a form taken by a verb to show the time of an action."

- www.wikipedia.com

"Tense means a verb-based method used to indicate the time, and sometimes the continuation or completeness, of an action or state in relation to the time of speaking." Its origin is from the Latin word *tempus "time"*

- www.englishclub.com

VARIOUS TECHNIQUES TO TEACH ENGLISH TENSES

Method of Flashcards: Flashcards are suitable to learn the English tenses easily because once you have made them you can use them for all different types of drills, activities and prompts. Students appreciate the opportunity to work with cards as they are something *hands-on* that they can touch and manipulate. You can generate all types of card activities and remember that the point is to get the students working together. You'll definitely want to have a selection of cards for irregular past tense verbs.

Close Ended Questions: Students always have to struggle to frame the questions in any tense. You can also frame close - ended questions for your students. If they answer a question with only a "yes' or "no", it means a close - ended type question. It is also known as a trick of short questions. For examples: (1) Did you take your lunch? Yes, I did. / No, I didn't. (2) Is Jill married? Yes, she is. / No, she isn't.

Open Ended Questions: Open - ended questions require more than one word answers. The answers could come in the form of a list. You can also frame open - ended questions for your students. They will answer you differently. Open-ended questions are also helpful in finding out more about a person or a situation. For examples: (1) What would you like to drink? (2) When will your aunty come?   (3) Who delivered a beautiful speech?

Name all the Tenses: In this research method you can use some clippings of newspapers, magazines and internet to evaluate the students' skills and development during learning the tenses. The best types of passages are ones that weave in several tenses, tell a compelling story, and use some other element like humor or satire. That way the students aren't only analyzing the tenses, but they have a lot more to discuss and ask questions about. Often it can be fun to create some kind of competition for these activities as well. You could give them a time limit and tell them that the person who finds 5 different tenses and identifies them is the winner.

Method of a Cut-up Passage: There are a lot of ways to use passages that don't simply require the students to read and answer questions. If you want to focus on tenses, another engaging way

is to do a cut-up passage, in which you provide a passage that is cut up into sentences and mixed up. Then the students have to figure out the order and identify the tenses used in each sentence.

Method of Sentence Matching: There are a few ways you can do sentence matching to make it more or less interactive. You can do them on a worksheet and have students match two parts of a sentence or match a sentence to its tense. Another way would be to do this in a card game format where each student gets multiple half sentences. They then walk around the room and find the missing half of their sentence by asking questions pertaining to their card. Combinations must be grammatically correct and logical. Remind students that they should pay attention to punctuation. You can also do this on the board and make it a race between two teams who can match the most sentences correctly. You'll definitely want to include challenging structures and have some halves that could have multiple answers.

Method of Common Errors Solution: Tense wise common errors solution is a master key to win the English tenses. In this method the students are given the sentences which indicate wrong use of tenses. Those wrong use sentences are corrected by identifying the correct tense. By using this method the researcher may know how many students have learnt the English tenses properly. This method would be very useful for the students

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