

## Lesson Plan: Teaching Verb Tenses through Climate Literature

Teacher-contributed lesson plan by Swaroop Gokhale and Sriparna Paulchoudhury, Vidya Valley School, Pune, India.

As a **Middle** or **High School English** teacher or a teacher of **English as a second language**, you can use this set of computer-based tools to teach **tenses** using climate literature.

Global warming is causing glaciers to melt thus causing a water crisis. Satellite imagery is used to record and measure these climate induced changes on the Earth's surface over time. This lesson plan includes a reading resource that reports on the rapid melting of Himalayan glaciers over the past 40 years due to global warming. In the context of this lesson plan, this text can be used to identify different types of verb tenses and discuss their usage in English language.

Thus, the use of this lesson plan allows you to integrate the teaching of a climate science topic with a core topic in **English**.

Use this lesson plan to help your students find answers to:

1. What are the verb tenses in the English Language?
2. How are the different types of tenses used in the English language?
3. Identify the different types of tenses in a sample text about climate change.

### About the Lesson Plan

**Grade Level:** Middle or High School

**Discipline:** Language- English

**Topic(s) in Discipline:** Verb Tenses- Past, Present and Future, Subtypes of tenses- Simple, Continuous (progressive), Perfect.

**Climate Topic:** Introduction to Climate Change

**Location:** Global, Himalayas

**Access:** Online, Offline

**Language(s):** English

**Approximate Time Required:** 50- 60 min

## 1 Contents

### 1. Video lecture (~42 min)

A video lecture that introduces each of the verb tenses through simple timelines and demonstrates their usage.

This can be accessed at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9\\_PGNWzzu8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9_PGNWzzu8&feature=youtu.be)

## 2. Reading and Classroom Activity (10-20 min)

An article on global warming induced melting of Himalayan glaciers that can be used as a sample text to peruse for identification of the different verb forms.

The article can be accessed at:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/06/himalayan-glaciers-melting-alarming-rate-spy-satellites-show/>

Note: An answer key for this text can be accessed [here](#).

## 3. Suggested questions/assignments for learning evaluation

- What are the verb tenses in the English Language?
- How are the different types of tenses used in the English language?
- Identify the different types of tenses in a sample text about climate change.

## 2 Step-by-step User Guide

Here is a step-by-step guide to using this lesson plan in the classroom/laboratory. We have suggested these steps as a possible plan of action. You may customize the lesson plan according to your preferences and requirements.

### 1. Topic introduction and discussion

Use the video lecture, '[Using Timelines to Teach Verb Tenses](#)' by Dr. Dianne Tyers, Advance Consulting for Education (ACE), to introduce your students to verb tenses in English language. Use the simple timelines described in the video lecture to explain how each of the tenses-past, present and future- can be used. Use the lecture to also elaborate on the different sub-types of tenses-simple, continuous (progressive), and perfect- and their usage in English language.

This can be accessed at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9\\_PGNWzzu8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9_PGNWzzu8&feature=youtu.be)

### 2. Apply the learning by perusing a sample text on climate change

Use the reading, '[Himalayan glaciers melting at alarming rate, spy satellites show](#)', by Stephen Leahy, National Geographic, to enable your students to apply their learning of tenses and their sub-types by examining this sample text and identifying them, as a classroom activity. Give your students handouts of the article and ask them to read it in pairs. Instruct them to highlight the verbs in the text and identify their tenses. As supporting material, an answer key is provided here for this sample text.

The article can be accessed at:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/06/himalayan-glaciers-melting-alarming-rate-spy-satellites-show/>

Note: An answer key for this text can be accessed [here](#).

### 3. Questions/Assignments

Use the tools and the concepts learned so far to discuss and determine answers to the following questions:

- What are the verb tenses in the English Language?
- How are the different types of tenses used in the English language?
- Identify the different types of tenses in a sample text about climate change.

## 3 Learning Outcomes

The tools in this lesson plan will enable students to:

- learn basic English grammar
- use tenses in English language
- learn about climate change

## 4 Additional Resources

If you or your students would like to explore the topic further, these additional resources will be useful.

### 1. Reading

An article on the migration of poor farmers due to climate change that can be used as a sample text for identification of the different verb forms. This additional reading and identification of tenses in the text could be used as a homework assignment.

The article can be accessed at:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/6/140623-migration-climate-indonesia-temperature-science/>

## 5 Credits/Copyrights

All the teaching tools in our collated list are owned by the corresponding creators/authors/organizations as listed on their websites. Please view the individual copyright and ownership details for each tool by following the individual links provided. We have selected and analyzed the tools that align with the overall objective of our project and have provided the corresponding links. We do not claim ownership of or responsibility/liability for any of the listed tools.

### 1. Video lecture; 'Using Timelines to Teach Verb Tenses'

Presented by Dr. Dianne Tyers. Published by [Advance Consulting for Education \(ACE\)](#).

### 2. Reading; 'Himalayan glaciers melting at alarming rate, spy satellites show'

Written by Stephen Leahy. Published on [National Geographic](#).

### 3. Additional Resources

[National Geographic](#)