The Perfect Tenses

**Present Perfect Tense**

Present perfect tense indicates that an action started in the past and continues in the present.

\[ \text{[have* + gone**]} \]

*Present Perfect tenses require the auxiliary verb “have”

**Present Perfect requires a past participle

The movie *has already started.*

Present Perfect Tense can also be progressive by adding an -*ing* to the main verb.

I *have been playing* tennis for three years.

**Past Perfect Tense**

Past perfect tense is an action that took place first in the past. Simple past tense is the second event that happened in the past.

\[ \text{[had + gone]} \]

He *had just finished* his laundry when you *called.*

After he *had shoveled* the sidewalk, it *began* to snow.

**Future Perfect Tense**

Future perfect tense is an event that will take occur before another event takes place.

\[ \text{[will/shall + have + gone]} \]

The train *will have left* before we reach the station.

**Exercise**

Use the following movie schedule, or other movies, to write your sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movie</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Bartlett</td>
<td>4:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fool’s Gold</td>
<td>4:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumper</td>
<td>4:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juno</td>
<td>3:45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Using the Present Perfect Tense**, write how long the movies *have been playing.*

Example: *Atonement* *has played* every day at 3:00 for three weeks. Or, *Atonement has been playing* since 3:00.

**Using Past Perfect and Simple Past Tenses**, write how long the movies *had played.*

Example: *Atonement had finished* by the time I *arrived* at Camera 12.

**Using Future Perfect and Simple Present Tenses**, write sentences about the movies. Example: Next week *Atonement will have played* for two weeks.