Harald Rees
Grammatical Tenses -
Usefully explained and shown
with the help of „Tenses-boy“

Reihe Fremdsprachen

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About the writer

Harald Rees, born in 1956, became first a machinist by trade. He studied education, combined this with his trade and trained mentally retarded grown-ups in special workshops. In 2007, he became a bilingual correspondent for English and German. He owns and operates a tutoring school in Böblingen and teaches German, social and economical science to apprentices in a training center near Böblingen.
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Preface

The figure of the "Tenses-boy" revealed as a useful device for teaching grammatical tenses, especially to children in 4th grade elementary school, but also for more advanced students.

The student can also regard him as a didactical help.

Head and body as the middle of the "Tenses-boy" always refer to the Present Tense, the left arm points to the Past Tense and the right arm points to the Future Tense. The bent-joints show the sequence of tenses.

Good progress was made especially when the students were taught privately by a tutor.

This booklet and the "Tenses-boy" are a short help to teach tenses. Rare specialties concerning grammar cannot be found here.
The Present Tense = Das Präsens

This tense covers almost the whole range of tenses, at least in spoken language. You can express:

✓ what is happening in this moment: Ich lese ein Buch.
✓ something that has begun in the past and lasts still: Seit vier Jahren arbeite ich hier.
✓ a general truth: Die Erde dreht sich um die Sonne.
✓ what takes place in the future: Ab morgen fahre ich mit dem Rad zur Arbeit.

Form of the Present Tense

It is formed by adding the personal endings to the stem of the verb. Watch out for regular and irregular verbs!

Example here: lesen = to read

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Negative Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ich lese</td>
<td>ich lese nicht</td>
<td>lese ich?</td>
<td>lese ich nicht?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>du liest</td>
<td>du liest nicht</td>
<td>liest du?</td>
<td>liest du nicht?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er/sie/es liest</td>
<td>er/sie/es liest nicht</td>
<td>liest er/sie/es?</td>
<td>liest er/sie/es nicht?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wir lesen</td>
<td>wir lesen nicht</td>
<td>lesen wir?</td>
<td>lesen wir nicht?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ihr lest</td>
<td>ihr lest nicht</td>
<td>lest ihr?</td>
<td>lest ihr nicht?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sie lesen</td>
<td>sie lesen nicht</td>
<td>lesen sie?</td>
<td>lesen sie nicht?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>