

**Advanced 1**  
**Unit 3 Language Focus 3**  
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## Consistency in Tense

**Consistency** means logical agreement or the absence of contradictions.

**Tense** refers to a grammatical form that shows the time of an action, such as the *simple present tense* or the *past progressive tense*.

When writing **compound** or **complex sentences** (sentences with two or more clauses), it is important that the tenses of the verbs be **logically consistent** with each other. If they are not, the sentence will sound incorrect or confusing.

### Examples


 Tom said that he **will** bring his laptop with him.

 Tom said that he **would** bring his laptop with him.

In this example, the *future simple tense* (“will bring”) is not compatible with the *simple past tense* (“said”).

Therefore, we change “will” to “would,” which is the *future in the past* form that agrees with the past tense.

 They **constructed** the bridge before winter **had arrived**.

 They **had constructed** the bridge before winter **arrived**.

When describing two actions in the past, use the **past perfect tense** for the **first action**, and the **simple past tense** for the **second**.

The past perfect (“had constructed”) shows that this action happened earlier than the simple past (“arrived”).

 Henry **went** home and **finds** a note on the kitchen table.

 Henry **went** home and **found** a note on the kitchen table.

The *simple past tense* (“went”) is not compatible with the *simple present tense* (“finds”).

To maintain consistency, both verbs should be in the *simple past tense*.

### **Key Point**

Always make sure that verb tenses in a sentence **match in time and logic**.

Inconsistent tenses can make your writing unclear or grammatically incorrect.

### **Source:**

[Advanced 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)