

I. False Friends

Definitions:

Words that resemble each other can be found in all languages. Even the major languages like English, German and French. The reason is that several words in different languages have the same origin, like Latin.

The term *false friends* (in French, *faux amis*) was coined by Maxime Koessler and Jules Derocquigny in *Les faux amis, ou, les trahisons du vocabulaire anglais (False Friends, or, the Treacheries of English Vocabulary)*, 1928. A word that is often confused with a word in another language with a different meaning because the two words look or sound similar

In linguistics, the informal term *false friends* refers to pairs of words in two languages (or in two dialects of the same language) that look and/or sound the same but have different meanings. Also known as *false* (or *deceptive*) cognates.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW YOUR 'FALSE FRIENDS' ?

If you know the most important 'false friends' between two languages, you are well on your way to avoiding awkward or unfortunate situations when communicating with people from other countries in connection with your travels or work. Imagine the misunderstandings that might arise if you write that your boss is 'retarded' in English, which in French means 'delayed'. Or if you want to ask someone politely to help you and accidentally write 'demand' instead of the more neutral word for 'ask' in French.

I'll first list the French word with its English equivalent.

Then the English word and its French equivalent :

1. Un coin = corner, local area
Coin = une pièce de monnaie
2. Le collège = secondary school, middle school
College = l'université (nf)
3. Commander à = to order
To command = ordonner à
4. Une journée = day span
Journey = un trajet, un voyage
5. Une librairie = a bookstore
Library = une bibliothèque
6. Un magasin (nm) = a store, a shop
Magazine = un magazine

7. La monnaie = currency in coin, change
Money = l'argent (nm)
8. Un patron = the boss
Patron = le client
9. Sensible (adj) = sensitive
Sensible = raisonnable
10. Surveiller (vtr) = to watch or monitor
To survey = examiner, questionner
11. Une tentative = an attempt
Tentative (adj) = timide, hésitant
12. Actuel (adj) = current, contemporary
Actual = réel, vrai
13. Actuellement (adv) = at the moment, currently
Actually = en fait, vraiment, en réalité
14. Assister à (vtr) = to attend, be present at
To Assist = aider
15. Blesser (vtr) = to wound, injure
To Bless = bénir
16. La chair = flesh, meat
Chair = la chaise
17. La chance = luck, opportunity
Luck = le hasard

II. What are the 3 tenses?

1. Present tense
2. Past tense
3. Future tense.



1. Present Tenses:

A present tense describes any action that is commonly performed or is happening in a current situation.

1.1: Present Simple Tense

Simple present tense speaks about the present actions, events, or conditions which are occurring in the current situation.

Structural formula:

Subject + verb (s/es) + object.

Examples:

He plays the piano.

Romie loves to eat burgers.

We produce biogas from manure.

I go to the gym daily.

1.2: Present Continuous (progressive) Tense

Present continuous tense is used to tell about the ongoing actions, events, or conditions and still not finished.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (is / am/ are) + main verb (ing) + object.

Here, verb (ing) is the present participle form of the verb, and helping verbs (is/am/are) are used by a class of person as the first person (am), second person (is), and third-person (are) respectively.

Examples:

I am dancing on the stage.

She is looking at him.

They are practicing on the ground.

You are not coming with us to the picnic.

1.3: Present Perfect Tense

The present perfect tense is used to express the situation or event which is completed but in a present consequence. It is a combination of the ideal aspect done in the present tense.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (have/has) + verb (ed) + object.

Here, the modal verb “has” is being used for the second person (He, She, It), and “have” is used for the first-person and third-person (I, you, they, we) respectively. Verb(ed) is in the past participle form of the verb that shows the task’s completion.

Examples:

1. He has completed the task.
2. She has gone for lunch with her friends.
3. I have submitted the thesis report in the HOD’s office.
4. They have given three mock tests already.

1.4: Present perfect Continuous Tense

The Present perfect continuous tense shows the situation which has been started in the past and continues in the present.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (have/has) + been + verb (ing) + object (optional) + since / for + time duration + object.

Here, “been” is added with the modal verbs (have/has), and verb (ing) is in the present participle form of the verb. After time duration is added with since/for (optional)

Examples:

He has been preparing for the MPSC examination.

You have been watching television for 2 hours.

I have been working on this project for the last two years.

They have not been participating in the cultural event for the previous five years.

2. Past Tenses:

Past tense is used to show the actions, events, or moments that have already happened or occurred in the past

2.1: Past Simple Tense

The simple past tense is used to describe any event, actions, moments which occurred in the past. The simple present tense is also called a preterite.

Structural formula:

Subject + verb (2nd form) + object.

Here, the verb V (2nd form) is in the past simple form.

Examples:

I went to school in the morning.

He wrote a letter to his father.

They came to see my grandmother in the hospital.

She spent her most of the time here for refreshment.

Joseph came from London yesterday.

2.2: Past Continuous (progressive) Tense

The past continuous tense is used to express the occurring circumstance or any continuing action that has happened in the past.
It is used to describe any action which is happening in the past.

Structural formula:

Subject + helping verb (was/were) + verb (ing) + object.

Here, the helping verbs (was/were) are in the past form where “was” is used for the first person and second person and “were” is used for the third person. Verb V+ing is in the present participle form to show the continuation of the action.

Examples:

I was traveling to Los Angeles to attend a business meeting.

They were playing an act in the annual gathering.

He was not listening to my words.

You were cleaning the hall yesterday after the party.

More: Examples of Past Continuous Tense

2.3: Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense is used to tell the happened situation which occurred before a completed action in the past. It also shows the specific time when the action occurred. The past perfect tense is also called a pluperfect in English and combines the past tense and a perfect aspect.

Structural formula:

Subject + had + Verb (ed) + object.

Here, the modal verb “had” is used with the main verb, and the verb V (3rd form) is in the past participle form that shows the completion of the task.

Examples:

I had never imagined that you did that night.

She had gone to hang out with her boyfriend.

They had rescued the entire refugees from the flooded area.

The train had left the station by the time I reached there.

2.4: Past Perfect Continuous (progressive) Tense

The past perfect continuous tense represents any action or event that started in the past and sometimes continued until another action or another time. It is the same as that of the past perfect tense, along with it highlights a time duration of the action that happened before something in the past.

Structural formula:

Subject + had been + Verb (ing) + object (optional) + time of action.

Here, the modal verb had is used with been, and the verb V+ing, the present participle is used to indicate the continuous for a time duration until the action finished.

Examples:

She had been waiting for her father for more than three hours and then left together when he appeared.

You had not only been sitting there for so long.

They had been dancing continuously for two hours at his wedding party.

It had been raining fastly for the whole night, so he couldn't go home.

3. Future tenses:

The future tense is used to express future activity or a state of being which has not happened yet and is expected to happen in the future.

3.1: Future Simple Tense

The simple future tense is used to predict or to forecast something that will happen in the future.

It is an imagination of the mind of our mind that we plan to do something.

Structural formula,

Subject + shall/will+ verb (s/es) + object.

Here, the modal verbs shall/will are used to indicate prediction and the verb V (s/es) in a simple form.

Examples:

I shall/will go to school today.

She will play the guitar at a cultural festival.

They will finish their work by tomorrow morning.

You shall not break this window glass by your hands.

3.2 Future Continuous Tense

The future continuous tense is used to explain the ongoing action at a particular instant in the future or happen in the future.

Structural formula:

Subject + shall/will be + Verb (ing) + object.

Here, “be” is added with the modal verbs shall/will in a sentence, and a verb V+ing is in the present participle form to indicate the continuous action in the future.

Examples:

Randy Orton will be fighting tonight with Roman Reigns.

He will be writing the answers to all the questions in an examination.

She will be singing at tonight’s concert.

Malinga will be playing as a captain in this ICC cricket tournament.

3.3: Future Perfect Tense

The future perfect tense is used to describe a future action that has a fixed date schedule.

This is a verb form that expresses an event planned to happen at a particular instant of time in the future.

Structural formula:

Subject + shall/will + have + verb (3rd form) + object.

Here, the helping verb “have” comes along with modal verbs shall/will and is connected with the main verb V(3rd form) in the past participle form shows the completion of the task.

Examples:

I shall have played cricket in college.

She will have baked a cake for tomorrow’s event.

They will have arrived in New York for their concert.

I will have stopped looking at her when she comes near me.

3.4: Future Perfect Continuous Tense

The future perfect continuous tense is used to explain certain activities and events that are continuing or happening and done after some expected time instant.

Structural formula:

Subject + shall/will + have been + verb (ing) + object (optional) + time instant.

Here, the helping verb “have been” is used along with the modal verbs shall/will, and the main verb is in the present participle form V+ing.

Examples:

You shall have been coming to our wedding ceremony.

I will have been waiting for this moment for so long.

They will have been watching movies on the laptop before he comes.

Where will you have been waiting for me before I reach?