

Verb Tense Course 4 Day 19

Showing tense in ASL is done by producing a sign or signs in relation to your body, using your body as the timeline. Consider your body as being the “now” (present tense).

Present tense: Sign close to your body, just like you normally do in a signed conversation.

English: I am going now.

ASL: ME GO.

NOW



Past tense: Sign “finish” first while saying the word “fish” (a shortened version of “finish”). Can be signed at the end as well.

PAST



English: I already went.

ASL: FINISH ME GO.

Future tense: Sign “will” at the end of a sentence. The farther you sign the word “will” from the front of your body, the farther into the future you go.

English: I will go later.

ASL: ME GO WILL.

FUTURE



If the day is already mentioned in the sentence to declare the tense, the time is signed first.

English: I went to the store yesterday.

ASL: YESTERDAY, STORE ME GO.

English: I was born in 1968.

ASL: 1968 BORN ME.

THIS WEEK-at body
LAST WEEK-moves back
NEXT WEEK-moves forward