Lecture 14: Comparing Tenses

Objectives:

- Understand the differences between simple and continuous tenses
- Compare past, present, and future tenses
- Recognize when to use different tenses in speech and writing

Content:

- **Present Simple vs. Present Continuous:**
  - "I work every day." (habit) vs. "I am working right now." (action happening now)
  - "She reads books." (general statement) vs. "She is reading a book." (currently happening)

- **Past Simple vs. Past Continuous:**
  - "He watched TV last night." (completed action) vs. "He was watching TV when I arrived." (ongoing past action interrupted by another event)
  - "They played football yesterday." vs. "They were playing football when it started to rain."

- **Future Simple vs. Future Continuous:**
  - "I will travel to Paris next year." (definite future plan) vs. "I will be traveling to Paris next year at this time." (action in progress at a future time)
  - "She will call you later." vs. "She will be calling you at 7 PM."

- **Perfect Tenses Comparison:**
  - "I have seen that movie." (Present Perfect: past action with present relevance)
  - "I had seen that movie before he arrived." (Past Perfect: past action completed before another past action)
  - "I will have finished my homework by 8 PM." (Future Perfect: action completed before a specified future time)

Examples:

- "She writes emails every morning." → Change to past and future tenses.
- "They were studying when the teacher entered." → Identify the tenses and explain their functions.
- "By next year, I will have graduated." → What tense is this? How does it differ from simple future?

Exercises:

1. Identify the tense of each sentence:
    - "She is playing tennis."
    - "He had already eaten when they arrived."
    - "We will be visiting my grandparents this weekend."
    - "They have lived here for five years."

2. Rewrite the following sentences in different tenses:
    - "I go to school every day."
    - "She was cooking when the phone rang."
    - "They will finish the project by tomorrow."

3. Complete the sentences using the correct tense:
    - "By the time you arrive, I ___ (finish) my work."
    - "While we ___ (watch) TV, the lights went out."
    - "Next year, she ___ (be) in college."