

ENGLISH TENSES



The different structures

Simple	:	<i>infinitive</i>
Continuous (Progressive)	:	<i>be + -ing</i>
Perfect	:	<i>have + past participle</i>

The Tenses

Present	:	<i>Present Simple</i>
		<i>Present Continuous (Progressive)</i>
		<i>Present Perfect</i>
		<i>Present Perfect Continuous (Progressive)</i>
Past	:	<i>Past Simple</i>
		<i>Past Continuous (Progressive)</i>
		<i>Past Perfect</i>
		<i>Past Perfect Continuous (Progressive)</i>
Future	:	<i>Future Simple</i>
		<i>Future Continuous (Progressive)</i>
		<i>Future 'going to'</i> <i>(Future Perfect)</i>
		<i>(Future Perfect Continuous (Progressive))</i>

The Present Simple

How to write it:

- Infinitive
*I **play** / I **come***
- He / she / it : infinitive + **s**
*He **plays**, he **comess***
- Question: **do** / **does** + infinitive
***Do** you **play**? / **does** he **come**?*
- Negative: **do not (don't)** / **does not (doesn't)** + infinitive
*I **do not (don't)** **play** / he **does not (doesn't)** **come***

How to make he / she / it forms:

- Most verbs: + **s**
*come - **comes***
- - s, - sh, - ch, - x, - o: + **es**
*pass – **passes** / wash - **washes***
- consonant + y: - **ies**
*fly – **flies***

The Present Simple

How to use it:

The Present Simple is used to talk about :

- things that are always true
The sun rises in the east.
- habits (routines) and things that happen repeatedly
Joe plays golf on Sundays.

I have got a routine!
When I go out, I wear
sunglasses and a red
hoody, because I want to
be incognito!

What kind of a
disguise is
this? Little Red
Hood?



The Present Continuous (Progressive)

How to write it:

- am, is, are + -ing
I am playing / I am coming
- Question:
Are you playing? / Is he coming?
- Negative:
I am not playing / he is not (isn't) playing

How to make -ing forms:

- Most verbs: **inf + -ing**
open - opening
- Verbs ending in -e: **inf (-e)+ -ing**
drive - driving
- ie changes to: **y + ing**
lie - lying
- one vowel + one consonant: **double the consonant**
stop - stopping

The Present Continuous (Progressive)

How to use it:

The Present Continuous is used to talk about :

- things that are happening now or around now

I'm working just now.

I'm reading an interesting book

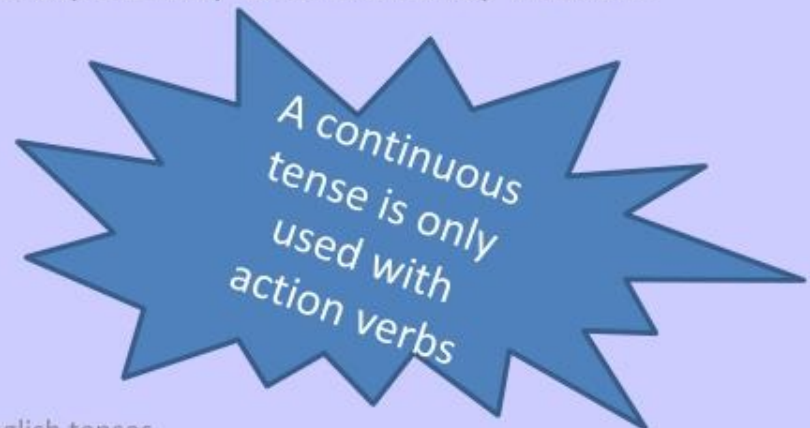


(it doesn't mean that I am reading it right now, but that the reading of the book is in progress these days.)

Verbs normally not used in the Present Continuous:

hate, know, like, love, mean, need, prefer, seem, understand, want ...

These verbs are not action verbs!



What are you
doing?

I am cycling and
trying to catch a
ball



...and what
are you
doing?

I am running...
but I don't like
this!



Present Simple or Present Continuous (Progressive)

Put the verbs listen and look in the correct tense in these sentences:

- Amy usually listens to the news on the radio in the morning.
- Sam is listening to a concert on the radio at the moment.
- My sister always looks for unusual things to bring back when she goes on holiday.
- We are looking for Alison's purse. She can't find it anywhere.

Present Simple or Present Continuous (Progressive)

Make questions using the prompts:

- foreign food / like?

Do you like foreign food?

- need / take / go camping?

What do you need to take when you go camping?

- want / do / after the lesson?

What do you want to do after the lesson?

- season / prefer ?

Which season do you prefer?

- there / anything / really hate / do?

Is there anything you really hate doing?

- this exercise / seem difficult?

Does this exercise seem difficult?

The Present Perfect

How to write it:

- have, has + past participle

I have played / I have come

- Question

Have you played? / has he come?

- Negative

I have not (haven't) played / I have not (haven't) come

How to make past participle:

- Regular past participles end in -ed

- Irregular past participle, see list 3rd column

The Present Perfect

How to use it:

The Present Perfect is used to:

- talk about the past and the present
I've made a cake. Would you like some?
- give news
The Prime Minister has arrived in Washington.
- say how long something has continued up to now
I've lived here for two years.

Have you ever
skied?

Oh yes, we
have even
skied in
summer!

Look how tall I
am! I have
grown!



The Present Perfect Continuous (Progressive)

How to write it:

- have, has been + - ing

I have been playing / I have been learning

- Question

Have you been playing? / has he been learning?

- Negative

I have not (haven't) been playing / I have not been (haven't) learning

The Present Perfect Continuous (Progressive)

How to use it:

The Present Perfect Continuous is used for:

- unfinished actions continuing up to now
Have you been waiting long?
- to say how we have been filling our time up to now
Sorry I haven't written, I've been travelling.

You look tired!
What have you
been doing?



We have been
cycling and...

...and
pushing our
heavy bikes
and...



... walking
all day!



Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous

Complete the conversation with a Present Perfect or a Present Perfect Continuous

Laura: What are you doing, Trevor? You've been (you / be) in here for ages. You're making an awful mess.

Trevor: I've been cleaning (I / clean) out this cupboard most of the afternoon. There's a lot of old stuff in here. I have found (I / find) these, look.

Laura: You've been sitting (you / sit) there staring at those old boots for the last five minutes. I have been watching (I / watch) you.

Trevor: They're my football boots I've had (I / have) them since I was about sixteen. They have been (they / be) in here for years.

Laura: Well, throw them away. And what about that tennis racket? Is that yours?

Trevor: No, it must be yours. I've never had (I / never / have) a tennis racket.

The Past Simple

How to write it:

- Regular verbs: Infinitive + ed
I played / I opened
- Irregular verbs, see list 2nd column
write, wrote, written
- Question: did+ infinitive
Did you play? / did he come?
- Negative: did not (didn't) + infinitive
I did not (didn't) play

How to make regular past forms:

- Most verbs -> + ed: worked
- After e -> + d: tired
- consonant + y -> - ied: cried
- one vowel + one consonant -> double the consonant: stopped

The Past Simple

How to use it:

The Past Simple is used:

- to talk about when things happened

I didn't see Ann yesterday.

- with finished time-expressions (not Present Perfect)

I saw that film last week.

- for things that happened one after the other

He parked his car, went into the station and bought a ticket.

Last year we
went to a ski
camp with my
class and...



... we slept
in a
beautiful
dorm!!!



Past Simple or Present Perfect

Put in the Present Perfect or Past Simple of the verbs

1. Last time I went (go) to Brighton was in August.
2. I'd like to meet a ghost, but I have never seen (never/ see) one.
3. I've finished my homework. I did (do) it before tea.
4. I worked (work) for a computer company for a year. That was after college.
5. What time did you get (you / get) to work this morning?
6. Martin has been (be) to Greece five times. He loves the place.
7. The President has come out (come out) of the building and is going to make a speech.
8. Of course I can ride a bike, but I haven't ridden (not / ride) one for years.
9. Marilyn Monroe was (be) in about fifty films.
10. Rupert has left a message for you. He rang (ring) last night.

The Past Continuous (Progressive)

How to write it:

- was, were + -ing

I was playing / you were coming

- Question:

Were you playing? / Was he coming?

- Negative:

I was not (wasn't) playing / he was not (wasn't) playing

The Past Continuous (Progressive)

How to use it:

The Past Continuous is used to say :

- what was happening around a past time.
*Yesterday at 8 o'clock, I **was waiting** for the train.*
*When he came home, I **was watching** TV*

We didn't want to
go to bed
because we were
phoning.



Past Simple or Past Simple Continuous

Put the verbs in brackets into the Past Simple or the Past Continuous:

The other day I was standing (stand) in a queue to buy some theatre tickets when a small group of musicians suddenly appeared (appear) on the pavement. They were wearing (wear) brightly-coloured clothes and were playing (play) jazz. After a while, one member of the group began (begin) to walk up and down the queue. I noticed (notice) that he was collecting (collect) money a lot! It was (be) a cold, windy day, just as he was reaching (reach) my part of the queue, a sudden gust of wind blew (blow) the hat out of the musician's hand. The money fell (fall) out all over the pavement. Can you guess what happened (happen) next?

The Past Perfect

How to write it:

- had + past participle
I had played
- Question
Had you played?
- Negative
I had not (hadn't) played

The Past Perfect

How to use it:

The Past Perfect is used:

- when we are already talking about the past and want to talk about an earlier past time.

*We ran to the cinema but the film **had** already started.*

- after when to show that something is completely finished.

*When Kate **had done** her shopping, she went to visit her sister.*



Géraldine had
made the longest
jump ...

...before Mégane
jumped longer.



Present Perfect or Past Perfect

Put the verbs in the Present Perfect or Past Perfect

1. It isn't raining now. It has stopped (stop) at last.
2. We had no car at that time. We had sold (sell) our old one.
3. The park looked awful. People had left (leave) litter everywhere.
4. You can have that newspaper. I have finished (finish) with it.
5. There's no more cheese. We have eaten (eat) it all, I'm afraid.
6. There was no sign of a taxi, although I had ordered (order) one half an hour before.
7. This bill isn't right. They have made (make) a mistake.
8. I spoke to Kate at lunch-time. Someone had told (tell) her the news earlier.
9. I was really tired last night. I had had (have) a hard day.
10. Don't you want to see this programme? It has started (start).

Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect

Daniel is telling a story about how he forgot his passport. Put the verbs into the correct form.

It happened (happen) last August at the airport. A few weeks before, a group of us had decided (decide) to go to Greece together for a holiday. We were waiting (wait) in the queue at passport control when suddenly I realized (realize) that I had forgotten (forget) my passport. It was (be) quite a shock. I hurried (hurry) to a phone and rang (ring) my parents. They were working (work) in the garden, but luckily my mother heard (hear) the phone. They found (find) the passport and immediately drove (drive) to the airport with it. I met (meet) them at the information desk. We had (have) no time to talk, but I had said (say) goodbye to them earlier that morning. I ran (run) all the way to the plane. I was just in time. When I got (get) there, the passengers were sitting (sit) in their seats ready for take-off. When they saw (see) me, everyone started (start) clapping.

The Past Perfect Continuous (Progressive)


How to write it:

- had been + - ing
*I **had been** playing*
- Question
***Had** you **been** playing?*
- Negative
*I **had not** (hadn't) **been** playing*

How to use it:

The Past Perfect Continuous is used for:

- a lasting action
*They **had been** working hard before we arrived.*



*Not very different
from the Past Perfect.
The focus is on the
duration*

The Future Simple

How to write it:

- will + infinitive
I will play/ I will open
- Question:
will you play? / will he come?
- Negative:
I will not (won't) play

How to use it:

The Future Simple is used:

- to predict things about the future
I think it will snow tomorrow.
- when we take the decision at the moment of speaking
'The phone is ringing' ' Ok, I'll answer it'.

Ok ! I'll
carry you
back to the
hotel!

I've lost
one of
my
shoes!



Do you think we
will win the
race?



The Future Continuous (Progressive)

How to write it:

- Will be + -ing

I will be playing

- Question:

Will you be playing?

- Negative:

I will not (won't) be playing

How to use it:

The Future Continuous is used:

- as usual to introduce the idea of an action lasting for a certain time.

I'll be working in the morning.

- In spoken English to express more an idea of probability than a real future.

She'll be watching television, I imagine.

The Future 'going to'

How to write it:

- am, are, is going to + -infinitive

I am going to play / you are going to come / he is going to write

- Question:

Am I going to play? / are you going to come? / is he going to write?

- Negative:

I am not going to play / you are not (aren't) going to come / he is not (isn't) going to write.

How to use it:

The 'going to' Future is used:

- When we can see the future in the present.

Look it's going to rain.

- To talk about intentions.

I'm going to take a holiday next week

We are not going to be hungry after such a meal!



We are going to dance all night long!



Future Simple or Future 'going to'

Complete this news report. Use Will or 'Going to'

We have learned this week that the local council has plans for Westside Park in Brickfield. The council is going to sell (sell) the land to a builder, Forbes and Son. The plans are all ready. 'We are going to build (build) fifty houses,' said Mr Forbes. 'In two years' time everything will be finished (be) finished. I'm sure people will like (like) the houses. Most of them are going to be / will be (be) for young families. And we intend to take care of the environment. We are not going to cut (not /cut) down all the trees, only a few of them.' But people living near the park are angry. 'This is a terrible idea. We're all against it,' said Mrs Mary Brent. 'We are going to have (have) a protest march on Saturday. I expect everyone in Brickfield will be (be) there. We've reached our decision. We are going to stop (stop) this plan.'

Complete the letter with the correct tense

Dear Christina,

Many thanks for your letter. I am (be) very sorry I haven't written (not write) for so long, but I have been (be) very busy and we had (have) exams at the end of the month.

Anyway, you will be pleased (be pleased) to hear the course is going (go) really well. I like (like) the teachers very much, and we also have (have) classes for British culture – They're really interesting. I am practising (practise) pronunciation in the language lab and watching videos a lot too.

As for my social life, it couldn't be better. I have met (meet) lots of really nice people on the course and we all get on (get on) well together. We go out (go out) to films and restaurants together, and we organize (organize) now and then trips to the country. Last weekend we went (go) to Wales which was (be) great. Next month we are going (to go) (go) to Cornwall.

Anyway I'd better go now as I want (want) to catch the post. Do write again soon.

Lots of love

Andrea

TENSE

Signal words

SIMPLE PRESENT	→	every day, sometimes, always, often, usually, seldom, never
PRESENT CONTINUOUS	→	now, at the moment, Look! Listen!
PAST SIMPLE	→	last... , ...ago, in ... , yesterday
PAST CONTINUOUS	→	while
PRESENT PERFECT	→	just, yet, never, ever, already, so far, up to now, since, for, recently
PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS	→	all day, the whole day, how long, since, for
PAST PERFECT	→	already, just, never
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS	→	how long, since, for

	<u>ACTIVE</u>	<u>PASSIVE</u>
Infinitive	watch	be watched
-ing form	watching	being watched
Present Simple	watch	am / is/ are watched
Present Continuous	am/is/are watching	am / is /are being watched
Past Simple	watched	was / were watched
Past Continuous	was /were watching	was were being watched
Present Perfect	have / has watched	have /has been watched
Past Perfect	had watched	had been watched
Future Simple	will watch	will be watched
'Going to' Future	am / is / are going to watch	am / is / are going to be watched
Modal verbs	can watch	can be watched
	must watch	must be watched

Useful Internet links:

Verb Tenses: <http://www.englishforeveryone.org/Topics/Verb%20Tenses.htm>

<http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/worksheets.htm>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/grammar/tenses/getting the right tense/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/grammar/tenses/getting_the_right_tense/index.shtml)

Hotel California (By The Eagles) (1976)

On a dark desert highway, cool wind in my hair
Warm smell of colitas rising up through the air
Up ahead in the distance, I saw a shimmering light
My head grew heavy and my sight grew dim
I had to stop for the night
There she stood in the doorway;
I heard the mission bell
And I was thinking to myself,
'This could be Heaven, this could be Hell
Then she lit up a candle and she showed me the way
There was voices down the corridor,
I thought I heard them say...
Welcome to the Hotel California
Such a lovely place, such a lovely face,
Plenty of room at the Hotel California
Any time of year, you can find it here
Her mind is Tiffany-twisted, she got the Mercedes
bends
She got a lot pretty, pretty boys she calls friends
How they dance in the courtyard. sweet summer
sweat,
Some dance to remember, some dance to forget
So I called up the Captain,
'Please bring me my wine'

He said, 'We haven't had that spirit here since nineteen sixty-nine'
And still those voices are calling from far away,
Wake up in the middle of the night
Just to hear them say ...
Welcome to the Hotel California
Such a lovely place, such a lovely face,
They livin' it up at the Hotel California
What a nice surprise, bring your alibis
Mirrors on the ceiling
The pink champagne on ice
And she said ' We are all just prisoners here, of our own device'
And in the master's chambers they gathered for the feast
They stab it with their steely knives,
But they just can't kill the beast
Last thing I remember, I was
Running for the door
I had to find the passage back
To the place I was before
'Relax', said the night man,
'We are programmed to receive.
You can check out any time you like,
But you can never leave'

Hotel California