



ENGLISH TENSES

PRESENT TENSES

Present simple tense

Use:

- for permanent situations and states
- for repeated/habitual actions
- for permanent truths or laws of nature
- for timetables/programmes
- for reviews/sports/commentaries/dramatic narrative

Present continuous tense

Use:

- for temporary situations
- for actions happening at or around the moment of speaking
- for repeated actions with “always” expressing annoyance or criticism
- for fixed arrangements in the near future
- for changing or developing situations

PRESENT TENSES

Present simple tense

They **work** in an office.

He **often watches** TV.

Where **do you live**?

How much **does it cost**?

We **don't play** the piano.

She **doesn't live** here.

Present continuous tense

It's raining.

I'm having dinner tonight.

What are you doing here?

Where is she acting?

I'm not waiting for you.

She isn't driving now.

PAST TENSES

Past simple tense

Use:

- past actions which happened one after the other
- past habit or state
- actions which happened at a definite past time although the time is not mentioned

Past continuous tense

Use:

- for action in the middle of happening at a stated past time
- for past action in progress interrupted by another past action. the shorter action is in the past simple and the longer in the past continuous.
- for two or more simultaneous past actions

PAST TENSES

Past simple tense

She sealed the letter.

They put a stamp.

When did you call?

Did she write that song?

We didn't say a word.

He didn't see her.

Past continuous tense

He was playing tennis.

We were swimming.

Was she flying to Paris?

Were they having a party?

The sun wasn't shining.

They weren't listening to her.

FUTURE TENSES

Future simple (will)

Use:

- for decisions taken at the moment of speaking
- for hopes, fears, threats, offers, promises, requests, comments, etc.
- for actions or predictions which may (not) happen in the future
- for thing we are not sure about or haven't decided yet

Be going to

Use:

- for actions intended to be performed in the near future
- for planned actions or intentions
- for evidence that something will definitely happen in the near future
- for things we are sure about or we have already decided to do in the near future

FUTURE TENSES

Future simple (will)

I will turn on the light.

She will be late.

Will she buy that dress?

Will you go home?

They won't be afraid.

I won't probably be promoted.

Be going to

She is going to visit her parents tomorrow.

We are going to have a course.

Are you going to have a baby?

Is it going to rain?

They aren't going to live in a new house.

She isn't going to paint a picture.

PRESENT PERFECT TENSES

Present perfect simple

Use:

- for recently completed actions
- for actions which happened at an unstated past time and are connected with the present
- for personal experiences/changes which have happened
- for emphasis on number

Present perfect continuous

Use:

- for actions started in the past and continuing up to the present
- for past actions of certain duration having visible results or effects in the present
- for actions expressing anger, irritation, annoyance, explanation or criticism
- for emphasis on duration (for, since, how long)

PRESENT PERFECT TENSES

Present perfect simple

She has tidied her room.

We have lost 10 kilos.

Where has he lost his keys?

Have we taken a medicine?

He hasn't called at three o'clock.

We haven't got the letter.

Present perfect continuous

He has been writing a letter for two hours.

We have been climbing.

Has she been crying?

Who has been using my toothbrush?

They haven't been calling since this morning.

He hasn't been redecorating the room.

PAST PERFECT TENSES

Past perfect simple

Use:

- for past action which occurred before another action or before a stated past time
- for complete past action which had visible results in the past
- the Past perfect is the past equivalent of the Present perfect

Present perfect continuous

Use:

- for action continuing over a period up to a specific time in the past
- for past action of certain duration which had visible results in the past
- the Past perfect continuous is the past equivalent of the Present perfect continuous

PAST PERFECT TENSES

Past perfect simple

She had left by the time I got there.
They were sad because they had failed the test.

Had he tried to find his keys?
Where had they gone?

She hadn't finished by two.
The party hadn't started by the time I arrived.

Past perfect continuous

She had been working as a clerk for 10 years before she resigned.
They were wet because they had been walking in the rain.

How long had her leg been aching?
Had you been trying to find a job?

I hadn't been cooking.
We hadn't been working on the computer.

FUTURE PERFECT TENSES

Future perfect simple tense

Use:

- for actions which will be finished before a stated future time

Future perfect continuous tense

Use:

- for duration of an action which up to a certain time in the future

*Future continuous

Use:

- for the actions in progress at a stated future time
- for actions which are the result of a routine

FUTURE PERFECT TENSES

Future perfect simple tense

She will have come back by the end of July.

Will you have finished until midnight?

They won't have finished until 8 o'clock.

Future perfect continuous tense

By the end of this year she will have been working here for two years.

Will she have been driving for five hours.

They won't have been playing cricket for eight hours.