

All English Verb Tenses

Aspect → Time ↓	<u>Simple</u>	<u>Continuous</u> (Progressive) BE + Verb + -ING	<u>Perfect</u> HAVE + Past Participle	<u>Perfect Continuous</u> HAVE + BEEN + Verb + -ING
Present	<i>I do it</i> <i>She does it</i>	<i>I am doing it</i>	<i>I have done it</i> <i>He has done it</i>	<i>I have been doing it</i>
Past	<i>I did it</i>	<i>I was doing it</i>	<i>I had done it</i>	<i>I had been doing it</i>
Future	<i>I will do it</i>	<i>I will be doing it</i>	<i>I will have done it</i>	<i>I will have been doing it</i>

Formation

1. Present Simple: *base form (+ -s / -es if the subject is in the 3rd Person Singular)*
2. Past Simple: *past form*
3. Future Simple: *will + base form*

4. Present Continuous: *am/are/is + base form + -ing*
5. Past Continuous: *was/were + base form + -ing*
6. Future Continuous: *will be + base form + -ing*

7. Present Perfect: *have/has + past participle form*
8. Past Perfect: *had + past participle form*
9. Future Perfect: *will have + past participle form*

10. Present Perfect Continuous: *have/has + been + -ing*
11. Past Perfect Continuous: *had + been + -ing*
12. Future Perfect Continuous: *will have + been + -ing*

PRESENT

Present Simple - *Used for habits, unchanging situations, and general statements or facts.*

*Sometimes it refers to future planned events, e.g. "Our flight **leaves** next Tuesday."*

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: **Do/does** (with verbs) **Am / are / is** (with nouns/adjectives)

Common time markers: *every day/daily, sometimes, on Mondays, always, never, seldom/rarely, usually, often, sometimes/occasionally*

- We eat breakfast together every morning. My sister doesn't like to eat much.
- Making perfect cachapas is not easy. Are you a good chef?

Present Continuous - *Used for things happening right now, sometimes used for an action/event in the future that has already been planned, e.g. "She **is coming** home tomorrow."*

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: **Am / are / is**

Common time markers: *now, right now, at the moment, currently, Look!, Listen!*

- She is having brunch right now.
- We aren't meeting again later this afternoon, are we?

Present Perfect - 1. Any action/situation that started in the past and continues in the present (a period of time that isn't finished yet.)

2. A completed action/situation at a non-specific point of time in the past.

3. A repeated action any time between the past and now.

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: Have

Common time markers: since + (starting point), for + (period of time), just, already, yet, ever/never, so far, this month/year/etc., lately/recently, how long...?, before, how many times...?

- She has lived here since last year.
- Have you ever eaten okra before?
- How many times have you eaten dim sum at this restaurant?

Present Perfect Continuous - for something that started in the past and is continuing in the present, with an emphasis on the continuous nature of the action.

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: Have / Has + Been

Common time markers: See Present Perfect, also: all day, the whole day/week

- He has been living here since last summer. (He has lived here since...)
- How have you been feeling recently? / I haven't been feeling well lately.

PAST

- *NOTE: When using past tenses, any other verbs talking about a different past time uses the Past Simple*

Past Simple - *for a completed action at a specific time in the past.*

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: **Did** (with verbs) **Was / Were** (with nouns/adjectives)

Common time markers: *yesterday, last + (month/year/etc), (time) + ago / ...in + (starting time)*

- We ate couscous for lunch every day in college, didn't we?
- They didn't eat anything at the restaurant last night, they weren't too hungry.

Past Continuous - *things that started in the past, were in progress for a period of time, or were continuing until another time in the past.*

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: **Was / Were**

Common time markers: *See Past Simple, also: during, while, when + (past time), all + (period of time)*

- We were looking for apartments all morning.
- Was she sleeping when you came in?

Past Perfect - used to show one event happened before another when both events were in the past.

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: Had been

Common time markers: *already, yet, never, since, for, until + (time), before + (time), when, by the time...*

- By the time I arrived at the airport, my flight had already left.
- I had never eaten at that restaurant before today.

Past Perfect Continuous - describes actions or events in the past, which began in the past and were in progress when another event occurred in the past, emphasizing the ongoing nature of first action.

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: Had been

Common time markers: See *Past Perfect* time markers.

- Humans had been studying the stars for thousands of years before the invention of the telescope in 1608.
- The building hadn't been burning for too long when the firemen arrived. (The fireman arrived not long after the building had started burning)
- I had already been waiting for three hours when they told me my appointment was canceled.

FUTURE

- *NOTE: When using future tenses, any other verbs talking about a second future time use the Present Simple tense.*

Future Simple - *for any time later than now!*

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: Will

Common time markers: *Tomorrow, next + (future time), in a few + (minutes, hours, days, years), when + (future time), until + (future time), at + (future time)*

- I will write a novel someday when I am older.
- I won't stop working until it is finished.

Future Continuous - *for unfinished actions or events that will be in progress at a time later than now.*

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: Will be

Common time markers: *See Future Simple time markers, also all + (future time)*

- We will be watching a movie when she gets home later.
- I won't be working for a few weeks because I got injured.
- Will she be studying all night for the test?

Future Perfect - *for events or actions that will be finished, or predicted to be completed at a future time.*

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: Will have

Common time markers: *By + (predicted future date of completion), by the time + (Present Simple), before + (time), in + (period of time)*

- I will have finished this book by the end of the week.
- Will you have cleaned the whole house by the time she arrives?
- In one year we will have finished the project, but we won't have made enough money to move.

Future Perfect Continuous - *for events or actions that are currently unfinished (but in progress) and that will be finished at some future time.*

Auxiliaries for questions/negative: Will have been

Common time markers: *See Future Perfect time markers.*

- In 2026, she'll have been working here for 10 years.
- In September, she will have been living and studying in France for a year.
- Will we have been living here for 3 or 4 years in November?