

GRAMMAR: Get to know your English tenses – part 1

There is no grammar test in the IELTS but Grammatical Range and Accuracy is an assessment criterion that makes up 25% of your Writing and Speaking scores. A good knowledge of grammar is also very important in the Reading and Listening tests since it will help you properly understand and answer the questions.

Fill in the missing spaces in the table. The first line has been completed for you as an example.

THE PAST	(E.g.) <u>past simple</u>	1) completed actions 2) past habits	The price of bananas (E.g.) <u>rose</u> (rise) to \$3.24 in June.
	past continuous	past actions at a particular time	I was just ^(A) _____ (leave) when I got a phone call.
	(B) _____	an event in the past that happened before another event in the past	When I went home last year, I <u>met</u> a school friend I hadn't seen for 10 years.
THE PRESENT	present simple	1) facts that are always true 2) schedules 3) habits	1) Water ^(C) _____ (boil) at 100 degrees Celsius. 2) The bus only ^(D) _____ (operate) on weekdays. 3) Jo and Don ^(E) _____ (eat) breakfast at 7am every day.
	(F) _____	1) an action in progress 2) describe change	1) I think I'll go now because I'm not <u>feeling</u> well. 2) The cost of living <u>is increasing</u> all across the Western world.
	present perfect	1) talking about general experience 2) describing a very recent event	1) John ^(G) _____ (study) English for 12 years. 2) The price of petrol ^(H) _____ (rise) over the last week.
THE FUTURE	(I) _____	an immediate decision at the time of speaking	A: I'm cold. B: I <u>will</u> get you a sweater!
	going to	1) describing intentions or plans 2) to predict an event based on evidence now	1) I'm ^(J) _____ New York in December. 2) Look at those clouds, it's ^(K) _____ rain soon!

ANSWERS

A: leaving
B: past perfect
C: boils

D: operates
E: eat
F: present continuous

G: has studied
H: has risen
I: will

J: going to
K: going to