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**English Tense Overview**

The English language has three main tenses: present, past, and future. Each of these tenses has four forms: simple, progressive, perfect, and perfect progressive.

# Present Tense:

**Simple Present:** used to describe routine actions, facts, and general truths.

**Examples:** "I  **play** soccer every Saturday." "Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius."

**Present Progressive:** used to describe actions happening now or in the near future.

**Examples:** "I  **am playing** soccer right now." "She **is studying** for her exam."

**Present Perfect:** used to describe past actions that have a connection to the present.

**Examples:** "I  **have played** soccer for 10 years."

"They **have seen** that movie three times."

**Present Perfect Progressive:** used to describe a past action that started in the past and continues until now.

**Examples:** "I  **have been playing** soccer for 10 years." "She **has been studying** for 3 hours."

# Past Tense:

**Simple Past:** used to describe a completed action in the past.

**Examples**: "I **played** soccer yesterday." "She **visited** her grandparents last week."

**Past Progressive:** used to describe an ongoing action in the past.

**Examples:** "I  **was playing** soccer when my friend called."

"She **was studying** when the power went out."

**Past Perfect:** used to describe an action completed before a specific time in the past.

**Examples:** "I  **had played** soccer before I got injured."

"She **had finished** her homework before the class started."

**Past Perfect Progressive:** used to describe a past action that started in the past and continued until a specific time in the past.

**Examples:** "I **had been playing** soccer for two hours before I got tired."

"She **had been studying** for three days before she took a break."

# Future Tense:

**Simple Future:** used to describe a future action.

**Examples:** "I **will play** soccer tomorrow."

"She **will visit** her grandparents next week."

**Future Progressive:** used to describe a continuous action in the future.

**Examples:** "I **will be playing** soccer at 5 PM."

"She **will be studying** for her exam tomorrow."

**Future Perfect:** used to describe a future action that will be completed at a specific time.

**Examples:** "I **will have played** soccer for 10 years next month."

"She **will have finished** her degree in two years."

**Future Perfect Progressive:** used to describe a future action that will have continued up until a specific time.

**Examples:** "I **will have been playing** soccer for 10 years by the end of this year."

"She **will have been studying** for 3 years by the time she graduates."

In conclusion, the use of different tenses in English allows us to express actions and events in a precise manner, and it is important to choose the right tense to convey the intended meaning correctly.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tense** | | **Signal words** | **Use** | | **Form** | | **Examples affirmative** | | **Examples negative** | | **Examples interrogative** | |
|  | | **every day** | * something happens repeatedly * how often something happens * one action follows another * things in general * with verbs like (*to love, to hate, to think, etc.*) * future meaning: timetables, programmes | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | **sometimes** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | **always** |  | | I **work**. | | I **don't work**. | | **Do** I **work**? | |
| ***Simple Present*** | | **often**  **usually** | **infinitive**  he/she/it:  **infinitive** + **s** | | He **works**.  I **go**. | | He **doesn't work**.  I **don't go**. | | **Does** he **work**?  **Do** I **go**? | |
|  | | **seldom** |  | | He **goes**. | | He **doesn't go**. | | **Does** he **go**? | |
|  | | **never** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | **first ... then** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | **now** | * something is happening at the same time of speaking or around it * future meaning: when you have already **decided and arranged** to do it (a fixed plan, date) | |  | | I**'m working**. | | I**'m not working**. | | **Am** I **working**? | |
| ***Present Progressive*** | | **at the moment**  **Look!** | **be (am/are/is)** +  **infinitive** + **ing** | | He**'s working**.  I**'m going**. | | He **isn't working**.  I**'m not going**. | | **Is** he **working**?  **Am** I **going**? | |
|  | | **Listen!** |  | | He**'s going**. | | He **isn't going**. | | **Is** he **going**? | |
| ***Simple***  ***Past*** | | **last ...**  **... ago in 1990**  **yesterday** | action took place in the past, mostly connected with an expression of time (no connection to the present) | | regular:  **infinitive** + **ed**  irregular:  (**2nd column of table of irregular verbs**) | | I **worked**. He **worked**. I **went**.  He **went**. | | I **didn't work**. He **didn't work**. I **didn't go**.  He **didn't go**. | | **Did** I **work**? **Did** he **work**? **Did** I **go**?  **Did** he **go**? | |
| ***Past Progressive*** | | **while** | * an action happened in the middle of another action * someone was doing sth. at a certain time (in the past) - you don't know whether it was finished or not | | **was/were** +  **infinitive** + **ing** | | I **was working**. He **was working**. I **was going**.  He **was going**. | | I **wasn't working**. He **wasn't working**. I **wasn't going**.  He **wasn't going**. | | **Was** I **working**? **Was** he **working**? **Was** I **going**?  **Was** he **going**? | |
|  | | **just** | * you say that sth. has happened or is finished in the past and it has a connection to the present * action started in the past and continues up to the present | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | **yet** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | **never** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| ***Simple Present Perfect*** | | **ever already so far,**  **up to now,** | **have/has** + **past participle\***  \*(**infinitive** + **ed**) or (**3rd column of table of irregular verbs**) | | I **have worked**. He **has worked**. I **have gone**.  He **has gone**. | | I **haven't worked**. He **hasn’t worked**. I **haven't gone**.  He **hasn’t gone**. | | **Have** I **worked**? **Has** he **worked**? **Have** I **gone**?  **Has** he **gone**? | |
|  | | **since** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | **for** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | **recently** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| ***Present Perfect Progressive*** | | **all day**  **the whole day how long** | * action began in the past and has just stopped * how long the action has been happening | | **have/has** + **been** +  **infinitive** + **ing** | | I **have been working**.  He **has been working**. | | I **haven't been working**.  He **hasn't been working**. | | **Have** I **been working**?  **Has** he **been working**? | |
|  | | **since for** | **emphasis: length of time of an action** | |  | | I **have been going**.  He **has been going**. | | I **haven't been going**.  He **hasn't been going**. | | **Have** I **been going**?  **Has** he **been going**? | |
| ***Simple Past Perfect*** | | **already just never** | * mostly when two actions in a story are related to each other: the action which had already happened is put into *Past Perfect*, the other action into *Simple Past* * the past of the *Present Perfect* | | **had** + **past participle\***  \*(**infinitive** + **ed**) or (**3rd column of table of irregular verbs**) | | I **had worked**. He **had worked**. I **had gone**.  He **had gone**. | | I **hadn't worked**. He **hadn't worked**. I **hadn't gone**.  He **hadn't gone**. | | **Had** I **worked**? **Had** he **worked**? **Had** I **gone**?  **Had** he **gone**? | |
|  | |  | how long something had been happening before something else happened | |  | | I **had been working**. | | I **hadn't been working**. | | **Had** I **been working**? | |
| ***Past Perfect Progressive*** | | **how long since**  **for** | **had** + **been** +  **infinitive** + **ing** | | He **had been working**.  I **had been going**. | | He **hadn't been working**.  I **hadn't been going**. | | **Had** he **been working**?  **Had** I **been going**? | |
|  | |  |  | |  | | He **had been going**. | | He **hadn't been going**. | | **Had** he **been going**? | |
|  | |  | * predictions about the future (you think that sth will happen) * you decide to do sth. spontaneously at the time of speaking * main clause in type I of the Conditional sentences | |  | | I**'ll work**. | | I **won't work**. | | **Will** I **work**? | |
|  | |  | | He**'ll work**. | | He **won't work**. | | **Will** he **work**? | |
| ***will - future*** | | **will** + **infinitive** | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | |  | | I**'ll go**. | | I **won't go**. | | **Will** I **go**? | |
|  | |  | | He**'ll go**. | | He **won't go**. | | **Will** he **go**? | |
|  | |  | * when you have already decided to do sth. in the future * what you think what will happen | |  | | I**'m** *going to*  **work**. | | I**'m not** *going to*  **work**. | | **Am** I *going to*  **work**? | |
| ***going to - future*** | | **be (am/are/is)** +  *going to* + **infinitive** | | He**'s** *going to*  **work**. | | He**'s not** *going to*  **work**. | | **Is** he *going to*  **work**? | |
|  | |  | | I**'m** *going to* **go**. | | I**'m not** *going to* **go**. | | **Am** I *going to* **go**? | |
|  | |  | | He**'s** *going to* **go**. | | He**'s not** *going to* **go**. | | **Is** he *going to* **go**? | |
|  |  | | * An action will be in progress at a certain time in the future. This action has begun before the certain time. * Something happens because it normally happens. | |  | | I**'ll be working**. | | I **won't be working**. | | **Will** I **be working**? | |
| ***Future Progressive*** | **will** + **be** + **infinitive**  + **ing** | | He**'ll be working**.  I**'ll be going**. | | He **won't be working**.  I **won't be going**. | | **Will** he **be working**?  **Will** I **be going**? | |
|  |  | | He**'ll be going**. | | He **won't be going**. | | **Will** he **be going**? | |
|  |  | |  | |  | | I**'ll have worked**. | | I **won't have worked**. | | **Will** I **have worked**? | |
| ***Future Perfect Simple*** | sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future | | **will** + **have** + **past participle\***  \*(**infinitive** + **ed**) or (**3rd column of table of irregular verbs**) | | He**'ll have worked**.  I**'ll have gone**. | | He **won't have worked**.  I **won't have gone**. | | **Will** he **have worked**?  **Will** I **have gone**? | |
|  |  | |  | | He**'ll have gone**. | | He **won't have gone**. | | **Will** he **have gone**? | |
|  |  | |  | |  | | I**'ll have been working**. | | I **won't have been working**. | | **Will** I **have been working**? | |
| ***Future Perfect Progressive*** | sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future  **emphasis: length of time of an action** | | **will** + **have** + **been** +  **infinitive** + **ing** | | He**'ll have been working**.  I**'ll have been going**. | | He **won't have been working**.  I **won't have been going**. | | **Will** he **have been working**?  **Will** I **have been going**? | |
|  |  | |  | | He**'ll have been going**. | | He **won't have been going**. | | **Will** he **have been going**? | |

We sometimes use **Continuous** instead of **Progressive**. Some signal words can be found in more tenses. We did not list signal words in the future. Always remember what action is described.

*Used colours:*

**blue → infinitive grey → irregular verbs in the Simple Past red → negation**

**dark green → auxiliary purple → past participle**

**orange → ending light green → signal word**

## Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Yesterday, I (go) to the store and (buy) some groceries.
2. By this time next week, I (finish) all of my assignments.
3. I (watch) a movie when you called me last night.
4. We (have) a picnic tomorrow if the weather is good.
5. She (study) for her exam all week.

## Exercise 2: Choose the correct tense for the following sentences.

1. I my homework right now. (am doing / do / did)
2. He for his friends at the coffee shop. (waits / is waiting / waited)
3. They to New York next week. (are flying / fly / will fly)
4. She the guitar when she was a child. (played / plays / has played)
5. I my keys this morning. (lost / lose / have lost)

## Exercise 3: Rewrite the following sentences in the past tense.

1. I drink coffee every morning.
2. The train arrives at 7:30 pm.
3. She teaches math at the local high school.
4. They eat dinner together every night.
5. He writes poetry in his free time.

## Exercise 4: Fill in the blanks with the correct verb form in the present simple tense:

* 1. She (read) a book every night.
  2. They (not, like) spicy food.
  3. He (play) basketball twice a week.
  4. The sun (rise) in the east.
  5. I (study) English at school.

## Exercise 5: Rewrite the sentences in the present continuous tense:

1. They eat breakfast at 7 am. -> They breakfast at 7 am.
2. She listens to music on her way to work. -> She to music on her way to work.
3. He reads a book every night. -> He a book every night.
4. The children play in the park after school. -> The children in the park after school.
5. I watch TV in the evening. -> I TV in the evening.

## Exercise 6: Use the correct form of the past simple tense of the verbs in brackets:

1. I (be) very tired yesterday.
2. She (go) to the gym this morning.
3. They (watch) a movie last night.
4. He (cook) dinner for his family yesterday.
5. We (not, have) any classes yesterday.

## Exercise 7: Rewrite the sentences in the present perfect tense:

1. I finished my homework 10 minutes ago. -> I my homework 10 minutes ago.
2. They saw that movie last week. -> They that movie last week.
3. He has been to Paris twice. -> He to Paris twice.
4. She has already eaten breakfast. -> She breakfast already.
5. We have never tried sushi before. -> We sushi before.

## Exercise 8: Use the correct form of the future simple tense:

1. She (call) you later.
2. They (not, arrive) until next week.
3. I (meet) my friends tomorrow.
4. He (buy) a new car next year.
5. We (visit) our grandparents next month