

The 12 Tenses in English

I. SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Simple Present Tense indicates an action which happens in the present. It indicates general truths, scientific facts, habits, fixed arrangements and frequently occurring events etc...

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I prefer	I do not (don't) prefer	Do I prefer
You prefer	You do not (don't) prefer	Do you prefer
He prefers	He does not (doesn't) prefer	Does he prefer
She prefers	She does not (doesn't) prefer	Does she prefer
It prefers	It does not (doesn't) prefer	Does it prefer
We prefer	We do not (don't) prefer	Do we prefer
You prefer	You do not (don't) prefer	Do you prefer
They prefer	They do not (don't) prefer	Do they prefer

II. PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Present Continuous Tense indicates an action which is in progress at the time of speaking or at the present time. The present continuous is formed using am / is / are + present participle.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I am preferring	I am not (I'm not) preferring	Am I preferring
You are preferring	You are not (aren't) preferring	Are you preferring
He is preferring	He is not (isn't) preferring	Is he preferring
She is preferring	She is not (isn't) preferring	Is she preferring
It is preferring	It is not (isn't) preferring	Is it preferring
We are preferring	We are not (aren't) preferring	Are we preferring
You are preferring	You are not (aren't) preferring	Are you preferring
They are preferring	They are not (aren't) preferring	Are they preferring

III. PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

Present Perfect Tense is used to express an event that started in the past and the impact of the event is now continuing. It links between the present and the past.

POSITIVE(+)	NEGATIVE(-)	POSITIVE INTERROGATIVE(?)
I have shown	I have not (haven't) shown	Have I shown
You have shown	You have not (haven't) shown	Have you shown
He has shown	He has not (hasn't) shown	Has he shown
She has shown	She has not (hasn't) shown	Has she shown
It has shown	It has not (hasn't) shown	Has it shown
We have shown	We have not (haven't) shown	Have we shown
You have shown	You have not (haven't) shown	Have you shown
They have shown	They have not (haven't) shown	Have they shown

IV. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

It is used to explain an action which started in the past and has continued up until now.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I have been repairing	I have not (haven't) been repairing	Have I been repairing
You have been repairing	You have not (haven't) been repairing	Have you been repairing
He has been repairing	He has not (hasn't) been repairing	Has she been repairing
She has been repairing	She has not (hasn't) been repairing	Has he been repairing
It has been repairing	It has not (hasn't) been repairing	Has it been repairing
We have been repairing	We have not (haven't) been repairing	Have we been repairing
You have been repairing	You have not (haven't) been repairing	Have you been repairing
They have been repairing	They have not (haven't) been repairing	Have they been repairing

V. SIMPLE PAST TENSE

The simple past tense is used to talk about a completed action in a time before now. It indicates an action which is completed at a definite time in the past.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I watched	I did not (didn't) watch	Did I watch
You watched	You did not (didn't) watch	Did you watch
He watched	He did not (didn't) watch	Did he watch
She watched	She did not (didn't) watch	Did she watch
It watched	It did not (didn't) watch	Did it watch
We watched	We did not (didn't) watch	Did we watch
You watched	You did not (didn't) watch	Did you watch
They watched	They did not (didn't) watch	Did they watch

VI. PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

The past continuous tense refers to a continuing action or state that was happening at some point in the past. It points out an action which started in the past and continued in a certain time period.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I was learning	I was not (wasn't) learning	Was I learning
You were learning	You were not (weren't) learning	Were you learning
He was learning	He was not (wasn't) learning	Was he learning
She was learning	She was not (wasn't) learning	Was she learning
It was learning	It was not (wasn't) learning	Was it learning
We were learning	We were not (weren't) learning	Were we learning
You were learning	You were not (weren't) learning	Were you learning
They were learning	They were not (weren't) learning	Were they learning

VII. PAST PERFECT TENSE

The past perfect tense points out a past action which is completed before another past action.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I had returned	I had not (hadn't) returned	Had I returned
You had returned	You had not (hadn't) returned	Had you returned
He had returned	He had not (hadn't) returned	Had he returned
She had returned	She had not (hadn't) returned	Had she returned
It had returned	It had not (hadn't) returned	Had it returned
We had returned	We had not (hadn't) returned	Had we returned
You had returned	You had not (hadn't) returned	Had you returned
They had returned	They had not (hadn't) returned	Had they returned

IX. PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The past perfect continuous tense indicates "how long the action had continued".

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I had been trying	I had not (hadn't) been trying	Had I been trying
You had been trying	You had not (hadn't) been trying	Had you been trying
He had been trying	He had not (hadn't) been trying	Had he been trying
She had been trying	She had not (hadn't) been trying	Had she been trying
It had been trying	It had not (hadn't) been trying	Had it been trying
We had been trying	We had not (hadn't) been trying	Had we been trying
You had been trying	You had not (hadn't) been trying	Had you been trying
They had been trying	They had not (hadn't) been trying	Had they been trying

XI. SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE

The simple future tense is used to construct sentences about future time.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I will allow	I will not (won't) allow	Will I allow
You will allow	You will not (won't) allow	Will you allow
He will allow	He will not (won't) allow	Will he allow
She will allow	She will not (won't) allow	Will she allow
It will allow	It will not (won't) allow	Will it allow
We will allow	We will not (won't) allow	Will we allow
You will allow	You will not (won't) allow	Will you allow
They will allow	They will not (won't) allow	Will they allow

X. FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE

The future continuous tense points out an action which will be in progress at some definite time in the future.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I will be waiting	I will not (won't) be waiting	Will I be waiting
You will be waiting	You will not (won't) be waiting	Will you be waiting
He will be waiting	He will not (won't) be waiting	Will he be waiting
She will be waiting	She will not (won't) be waiting	Will she be waiting
It will be waiting	It will not (won't) be waiting	Will it be waiting
We will be waiting	We will not (won't) be waiting	Will we be waiting
You will be waiting	You will not (won't) be waiting	Will you be waiting
They will be waiting	They will not (won't) be waiting	Will they be waiting

XI. FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

The future perfect tense is used to express an action, expected to be completed before a certain time in the future.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I will have relaxed	I will not (won't) have relaxed	Will I have relaxed
You will have relaxed	You will not (won't) have relaxed	Will you have relaxed
He will have relaxed	He will not (won't) have relaxed	Will he have relaxed
She will have relaxed	She will not (won't) have relaxed	Will she have relaxed
It will have relaxed	It will not (won't) have relaxed	Will it have relaxed
We will have relaxed	We will not (won't) have relaxed	Will we have relaxed
You will have relaxed	You will not (won't) have relaxed	Will you have relaxed
They will have relaxed	They will not (won't) have relaxed	Will they have relaxed

XII. FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The future perfect tense points out an action that will continue up until a point in the future.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	INTERROGATIVE(?)
I will have been playing	I will not (won't) have been playing	Will I have been playing
You will have been playing	You will not (won't) have been playing	Will you have been playing
He will have been playing	He will not (won't) have been playing	Will he have been playing
She will have been playing	She will not (won't) have been playing	Will she have been playing
It will have been playing	It will not (won't) have been playing	Will it have been playing
We will have been playing	We will not (won't) have been playing	Will we have been playing
You will have been playing	You will not (won't) have been playing	Will you have been playing
They will have been playing	They will not (won't) have been playing	Will they have been playing