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| **Present simple** | *Jean comes from France.*  *Pete gets the 7.30 train.*  *She doesn’t speak Hindi.* | statement of fact, personal characteristic  habits, routines, timetabled events  state verbs (i.e. verbs not usually used in the continuous); belong, appear, understand, realise, seem, … |
| **Present continuous** | *Be quiet. I’m trying to study.*  *I’m giving a party on Saturday.* | temporary action in progress at the moment of speaking  pre-arranged (near) future action |
| **Present perfect simple** | *I’ve been to India twice.*  *Quick! The train’s arrived.*  *He’s been ill for three weeks.* | a completed action at an unspecified time in the past  a completed action in the recent past of which there is some present evidence  state or (lasting) activity that started in the past and still applies to the present |
| **Present perfect continuous** | *She’s been studying hard for her exams this week.* | an action (usually temporary) which started in the past and continues up to the present |
| **Past simple** | *Last year, I went to Spain for my holidays.* | an action completed at a definite moment in the past |
| **Past continuous** | *She was eating dinner when I arrived.* | an ongoing activity at a definite moment in the past, often interrupted by a shorter second action in the past simple |
| **Past perfect simple** | *When we got there the police had already arrived.* | an action completed earlier than a known moment in the past (defined by a past simple verb form) |
| **Past perfect continuous** | *She had been waiting there for more than an hour when he finally arrived.* | an ongoing activity up to a past moment in time |
| **Future with ‘going to’** | *I’ve decided that I’m going to give up smoking.*  *I think I’m going to faint.* | a pre-decided (far) future action; intention, plan  predictions based on present evidence |
| **Future with ‘will’** | *There’s the phone. I’ll get it.*  *It’ll be a lovely day tomorrow.* | a spontaneous decision taken at the moment of speaking (offers, promises, threats)  predictions without any present evidence |
| **Future continuous** | *Don’t call at 6.30 because I’ll be having dinner then.* | an action in progress at a future reference point |
| **Future perfect simple** | *By this time next month I’ll have completed my course.* | a completed action as seen from a future reference point |
| **Future perfect continuous** | *In June I’ll have been living here for two years.* | an ongoing activity up to a future moment in time |