## The tense system: tenses referring to present and future time

**Present Simple vs. Present Progressive**

|  |
| --- |
| The present simple →**UNLIMITED DURATION** |
| *Water boils at 100º*  *She works as a systems analyst*  *I live in Valencia* |
| The present progressive → **LIMITED**  **DURATION** |
| *I am reading this sentence*  *I am reading "Paradise Lost" (not right now but this month)*  *The cost of living is going up (a change in progress)* |
| **EXCEPTIONS** |
| a) State verbs  Verbs used statively cannot be used in the present progressive:  *I know they are listening*  *I think he is pretending*  *The land belongs to the people*  (Some verbs have stative and dynamic uses:  *I think you're right*  *I'm thinking about the problem)*  b) Set expressions:  *How do you do?*  *Why don't we/you go for a walk?*  c) In subordinate sentences with future reference  *When I get home, I’ll have a drink* |

**1. Fill in the correct form of the verb.**

1. Where ........................ (you usually get) the bus?
2. You ...................... (not believe) me! You ............... (think) I ................. (lie).
3. The sun ......................... (get) colder and colder.
4. Speak more slowly! I ...................... (not understand) what you ................... (say).
5. What .......................... (happen)?

I .................... (not know), I've only just arrived.

1. Don't disturb her, she ................. (think) about the problem.
2. The price of flats .................... (go up).
3. I'll phone you when I ..................... (get) home.
4. -What ...................... (you do)?

-I ........................ (look for) that book I lent you.

1. This week I ....................... (go) to work by bus, because I've lent my bicycle to a friend.
2. I ................ (know) he ................. (not tell) the truth about the incident.
3. I ....................... (read) *De Rerum Natura* again.
4. Why .................. (we not organize) a protest against the Government?
5. As soon as I .................. (get) home, I'll have a drink.

## The tense system: tenses referring to past time

**Past simple and perfect tenses**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Past simple →past time exclusive of present**  **Present perfect → past time inclusive of present** | |
| **I saw him yesterday**  **I didn't go to England last year**  **I flew to Italy last August**  **I saw him a few minutes ago**  **I lived there from 2010 to 2017**  **Nirvana made excellent records**  **I broke my leg yesterday** | **I have seen him today**  **I have never been to China (in all my life)**  **It's the first time I have flown (in all my life)**  **I've just seen him**  **I have lived here since 1999**  **Bruce Springsteen has made excellent records**  **I can't go out because I have broken my leg** |

**2. Fill in the blanks with the present perfect or past simple tense of the verb in brackets**:

1. I **didn’t go** (not go) to the party last week.
2. I **haven’t seen** (not see) Peter this week.
3. **Have you ever visited** (you ever visit) Cuba?
4. James **phoned** (phone) a few seconds ago.
5. The Commune **was set up** (be set up) in 1871.
6. I **lived** (live) in England until I was 22.
7. I **have lived** (live) in Spain since I was 22.
8. -Can you hear me?

-What **did you say** (you say)? I **didn’t hear** (not hear) you.

1. It's the first time I **have read** (read) a novel in Swahili.

***Some uses of the perfective forms***

|  |
| --- |
| **We use the present perfect to talk about DURATION from the past into the present** |
| **I began to live here in 2015, I live here now →**  **I have lived here for 3 years/since 2015** |
| **We use the past perfect to talk about DURATION from a more distant to a more recent past** |
| **I began to wait at 7:00, they arrived at 8:00 →**  **I had waited for an hour when they arrived** |
| **We use the future perfect to talk about DURATION from the past or present into the future** |
| **I began to work here in 2005, I will be working here in 2025 →**  **By the year 2025 I will have worked here for 25 years** |

**3. In the following exercise you must fill in the blanks with the present, past simple, past progressive, future, present perfect, past perfect or future perfect of the verbs in brackets**:

1. I **am living** (live) in Valencia at the moment.

2. I **have studied** // **have been studied** (study) at the Polytechnic since last October.

3. I met my wife while I **was living** (live) in Paris.

4. I **had lived** // **have been living** (live) in Paris for a month when I met my wife.

5. By the end of next year I **will have been** (be) married for a long time.

6. I **lived** (live) in Oxford from 2012 to 2015.

7. Next year I **will go** (go) to London for my holidays.

8. I **have been** (be) sceptical since I was a child.

|  |
| --- |
| **In the exercise of rewriting sentences, be careful when we use a perfect for duration. You may have to change the original verb:** |
| **I moved into my present house in 1990**  **I have lived here for ten years**  **(The act of moving house finished in 1990, the act of living here continues into the present)**  **I met Ann in 1995**  **I have known Ann since 1995**  **(*meet* = *know for the first time*)**  **I heard the news last week**  **I have known the news for a week** |

**4. Rewrite the sentences with the new beginnings.**

1. We met in 2006.

We have **known each other since 2006.**

2. I heard that joke when I was a child.

I have **known that joke since I was a child**

3. I began to have serious doubts about our policy last week.

I have **had** serious doubts about our policy since last week

4. I found out about the idea while I was a student.

I have **known**…

5. She met her boyfriend last year.

She has **known** her boyfriend for a year/ since last year

**5. Rewrite the sentences with the new beginnings.**

1. Petrol is more and more expensive.

The price of petrol **is increasing**

1. She had the idea during lunch.

She had the idea while **she was having lunch**

1. The movie started a few minutes ago.

The movie has **just started**

1. She began to work here in 2007.

By the year 2030 **she will have worked here for a 23 years**

1. I've never eaten raw fish before.

This is the first time I **have eaten** raw fish

1. I'll phone you on my arrival.

I'll phone you when I **arrive**.

1. I last saw Laura in 2006.

I have **not seen Laura since 2006**

1. They began to argue at 8:30 and I didn't arrive till 10.

By the time I arrived, they **have been arguing**