



Tenses Recap

THE SIMPLE PRESENT



When do we use the simple present?



Habits

I always drink coffee at work.
He goes to bed at 11 p.m.
They often eat lunch at school.

Future plans/schedules

The train arrives at 3 p.m.
We fly to Paris on Monday.
Classes begin next week.

General facts/truths

The sun rises in the east.
Earth is not flat.
Water boils at 100 degrees C.

Present facts/truths

I live in Washington, D.C.
She is eighty years old.
He works at Microsoft.



PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

also known as present continuous

Happening Now

It is raining.

I'm eating lunch now.



am/is/are + verb-ing

Remember: usually **STATIC VERBS** are **NOT** used in the progressive (-ing) form.



Temporary Actions

I'm working in New York this week.



Longer Actions in Progress Now

She's studying to be a doctor.

He's training for a marathon.

Fixed Plans

(often in the near future)

I'm meeting my friends after work.



Trends

More and more people are using cell phones to access the Internet.

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PRESENT PERFECT

has/have + past participle

When do we use the present perfect?

Duration from the Past Until Now *

I have been an engineer for five years.
I have had a headache for three hours.

* Often the present perfect is used in this way with stative verbs (verbs that are not used in the -ing form).

Event in the Past at an Unspecified Time

We have been to Malawi.
I have met someone famous.

Repeated Events in the Past Until Now

They have had five cars in the past two years.
We've had a lot of tests this year at school.

Change Over Time

Our daughter has grown a lot lately.
Your English has improved so much since last year.

Uncompleted Action that is Expected to Happen

He hasn't finished the report yet.
They still haven't arrived.

SIMPLE PAST

When do we use the simple past?

Series of completed actions

He sat down, took out a notebook and pen, and started writing.
He entered the room, turned in my direction, and smiled at me.

Habits in the past

Jen played the piano when she was a child.
I was good at dancing when I was a teenager.



Completed action in the past

Sal baked a cake yesterday.
I went to bed at 10 last night.
We ordered pizza on Friday.



Duration in the past

He stayed up all night.
We lived in Chicago for a year.
We played baseball all day.



PAST PROGRESSIVE

was/were + verb-ing

Remember: usually STATIVE VERBS
are NOT used in the progressive (-ing) form.

When do we use the past progressive?

Action Before & After a Specific Time

Yesterday at noon, I was eating lunch.

Interrupted Continuous Past Action

I was watching a movie when she called.

Parallel Actions

I was reading while my brother was playing guitar.

Repeated Action (often with "always")

My last roommate was always leaving dirty dishes in the sink.

To Start a Story / Create an Atmosphere

While I was driving to work yesterday...

The sun was shining, and birds were singing...

PAST PERFECT

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A Completed Action before a Different Past Action

When we arrived, the class had already begun.

By the time we got to the theater, the movie had already started.

A Period of Time before an Event in the Past*

We had owned our house for twenty years before we sold it.

I'd had that car for fifteen years before it broke down.

had + past participle

Reported Speech

My student said that he hadn't done his homework.

She told me that she had never been to the beach before.

In the "if" clause of the Third Conditional

If it had rained, I would have bought an umbrella.

If you had studied for the test, you wouldn't have failed.

* Often the past perfect is used in this way with stative verbs (verbs that are not used in the -ing form). However, in American English the simple past is often used instead of the past perfect.

SIMPLE FUTURE

When do we use the simple future?

Willingness *(will + verb)*

Someone is at the door. I'll get it. *(at the present moment)*

I'll help you with your homework tonight. *(promise/offer)*

She won't tell me her password. *(refusal)*

Future Fact *(will + verb)*

The sun will set at 7:00 p.m. tonight.



Plan or Intention *(be going to + verb)*

I'm going to watch a movie tonight.

He's going to have a party this weekend.



Prediction

Those are dark clouds. It's going to rain. *(evidence: often use "be going to")*

You'll fall in love someday. *(opinion: often use "will")*

FUTURE PROGRESSIVE

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also known as future continuous



Action in Progress at a Time in the Future

She will be taking an exam at 2 p.m. tomorrow, so don't call her then.

Interrupted Action in the Future

I will be waiting for you when you arrive tonight.

Atmosphere in the Future

When I arrive to class, the teacher will be talking, some students will be taking notes, and my best friend will be trying to stay awake.

will be + verb-ing



Remember: usually **STATIVE VERBS** are **NOT** used in the progressive (-ing) form.

Parallel Actions in the Future

She will be watching TV, and he will be cooking dinner.

*** While he is cooking dinner, she will be watching TV.**

Emphasis of Future Plans and Intentions

They'll be coming to visit us next week.

* With "while," use the present progressive in the "while" clause and future progressive in the other clause.

FUTURE PERFECT

will have + past participle

When do we use the future perfect?

A Completed Action before Something in the Future

By next year, I will have finished writing a book.

By the time Tom gets here, we will have eaten all of the cake.

Duration before Something in the Future Used with stative verbs.

By Friday, I will have been on vacation for a week.

He will have been in New York for a year by the time he leaves.

Question Form

Will you have graduated high school by then?

I need that book back by next week. Will you have finished it by then?

Negative Statements

By this time tomorrow, he won't have completed his homework.

By next year, I will not have finished filming my movie.

EXPRESSING THE FUTURE

There are many ways to talk about the future in English.
Here are just a few:

Opinions and Predictions

will + verb

be going to + verb

I think I will get a raise this year.
Karolina won't need to study much
for the quiz.
The sky is so dark. It's going to rain!



Plans or Intentions

present progressive + verb

be going to + verb

I'm walking to work tomorrow.
I'm going to walk to work tomorrow.

Aisha is meeting us there.
Aisha is going to meet us there.



Offers, Requests, and Refusals

will + verb

The phone is ringing. I'll get it!
Will you help me move tomorrow?
No matter what you say, I won't leave.



Formally Scheduled Events

present tense + time expression

The next ferry leaves Tuesday night.
The flight to Bari departs at 2:00pm.
The meetings start Monday morning.



Reference

- ♦ American English is a resource center for teaching and learning about American English language and culture at the U.S. Department of State.
- ♦ https://www.facebook.com/AmericanEnglishatState/?tn=-UC*F