

## 5 Tenses = 95% of English

The five most commonly used verb tenses total up to over 95% of usage in English communication:

- **Simple Present:** 57.51%
- **Simple Past:** 19.7%
- **Simple Future:** 8.5%
- **Present Perfect:** 6.0%
- **Present Continuous:** 5.1%

The remaining portion, less than 5%, covers all the other seven tenses combined.

### The Present Simple

The present simple describes general truths or habitual actions. It is the most commonly used verb tense, forming a significant part of daily communication. Here are its main uses:

1. **Facts and Statements That Are Always True**
  - "The Earth orbits the Sun."
  - "Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius."
2. **Statements True in the Present**
  - "She is at home right now."
  - "The store is open today."
3. **Routine Actions or Habits**
  - "I drink coffee every morning."
  - "He walks to work every day."
4. **Scheduled Events in the Future**
  - "The train leaves at 9 AM tomorrow."
  - "The meeting starts at 3 PM on Monday."
5. **Giving Directions or Instructions**
  - "Turn left at the next intersection."
  - "Mix the ingredients in a bowl."

### The Past Simple

The past simple is used to talk about completed actions at a specific time in the past. It is versatile and frequently used for storytelling and recounting experiences. Common uses include:

1. **Actions at a Specific Time in the Past**
  - "I visited my grandmother last week."
  - "They watched a movie last night."
2. **Narrating a Series of Past Events**

- "He woke up, brushed his teeth, and went to work."
- "She finished her homework, packed her bag, and left for school."
- 3. **Habitual or Repeated Actions in the Past**
  - "When I was a child, I played soccer every day."
  - "We always ate dinner together at 7 PM."
- 4. **Past States or Conditions**
  - "He was very shy when he was younger."
  - "The house looked old and abandoned."
- 5. **Past Facts**
  - "Dinosaurs roamed the Earth millions of years ago."
  - "The city was the capital of the country in the 18th century."

## The Future Simple

The future simple is used to discuss actions or events that haven't happened yet. It is helpful for spontaneous decisions, predictions, and promises. Common uses include:

1. **Spontaneous Decisions**
  - "I'll grab a coffee right now."
  - "I'll help you carry those bags."
2. **Predictions**
  - "It will rain tomorrow."
  - "I think they'll win the game."
3. **Promises**
  - "I'll call you later."
  - "I'll never forget your kindness."
4. **Offers**
  - "I'll cook dinner tonight."
  - "I'll drive you to the airport."
5. **Requests**
  - "Will you help me with this project?"
  - "Will you close the window, please?"
6. **Assumptions**
  - "You'll probably be tired after the long flight."
  - "I'm sure she'll be happy with the gift."

## The Present Perfect

The present perfect connects the past to the present. It is used to discuss actions that started in the past but are still relevant now or when the exact time of the action is not important.

1. **Unfinished States or Actions That Started in the Past**
  - "I have lived in this city for five years."
  - "She has worked at this company since 2018."
2. **Completed Actions with Relevance to the Present**

- "I have just finished my homework."
- "They have already eaten dinner, so they aren't hungry."
- 3. **Life Events and Experiences**
  - "I have visited Paris twice."
  - "She has never ridden a horse before."
- 4. **Actions or Events at an Unspecified Time in the Past**
  - "I have read that book."
  - "We have seen that movie."
- 5. **Recently Completed Actions**
  - "He has just arrived home."
  - "I have recently started learning Spanish."

## **The Present Continuous**

The present continuous describes actions happening right now or around the present moment. It is also used for temporary situations and planned future events.

1. **Describing Things Happening Right Now**
  - "I am reading a book right now."
  - "She is cooking dinner at the moment."
2. **Activities That Are Not Permanent**
  - "I am staying at my friend's house for the weekend."
  - "He is working at a café until he finds a better job."
3. **Discussing Future Plans or Events**
  - "We are meeting them for lunch tomorrow."
  - "I am leaving for New York next week."
4. **Actions Happening Around a Specific Time**
  - "I am studying a lot these days for my exams."
  - "They are working hard this month to meet the deadline."
5. **Describing Things That Are Gradually Changing or Improving**
  - "The weather is getting warmer every day."
  - "My English is improving as I practice more."
6. **Temporary Situations**
  - "She is living with her parents until she finds a new apartment."
  - "I am using my sister's car while mine is being repaired."