

## Present Simple

<b>1</b>	<b>a</b> habitual actions	Philip ~ <b>usually works</b> ~ on Saturdays.
	<b>b</b> frequency	He ~ <b>works</b> ~ in a restaurant ~ <b>twice a week</b> .

## Progressive

<b>2</b>	<b>a</b> this moment	He ~ <b>is checking ~ the paper ~ right now</b> .
	<b>b</b> this new situation	He ~ <b>is looking</b> ~ for a new job ~ <b>now</b> .
	<b>c</b> completion, or expiration of previous situation	He ~ <b>isn't working</b> ~ at the restaurant ~ <b>anymore</b> .
	<b>d</b> this continuing situation	He ~ <b>is still looking</b> ~ for a job.
	<b>e</b> anticipation of upcoming situation	He ~ <b>isn't making</b> ~ any money ~ <b>yet</b> .

## Perfect

<b>3</b>	continuing until now	He ~ <b>has been looking</b> ~ for a job ~ <b>since Monday</b> .
<b>4</b>	within time span leading up to current situation	He ~ <b>has had</b> ~ three interviews ~ <b>since Monday</b> .
	<b>a</b> completion of events resulting in current situation	He ~ <b>has just quit</b> ~ his job ~ at the restaurant.
<b>5</b>	<b>b</b> continuation of the current situation, or anticipation of events that would change it.	He ~ <b>hasn't found</b> ~ a new job ~ <b>yet</b> .

## Future Simple

<b>a</b>	a point in the future	John ~ <b>will go</b> ~ to Europe ~ <b>on July 21st</b> .
<b>b</b>	following a span of time measured from now	He ~ <b>will leave</b> ~ for Europe ~ <b>in two weeks</b> .
<b>c</b>	between 2 points in the future	He ~ <b>will contact</b> ~ our client ~ <b>(on) that Tuesday</b> .
<b>11</b>	<b>d</b> within time span from now to deadline	He ~ <b>will have</b> to return ~ <b>by August 1st</b> .
	<b>e</b> precedes future event by measured span of time	He ~ <b>will confirm</b> ~ his flight ~ <b>3 days before</b> he goes.
	<b>f</b> follows future event after measured span of time	He ~ <b>will rent</b> ~ a car ~ <b>the day after he arrives</b> .
	<b>g</b> before a deadline following future situation	He ~ <b>will have to make</b> ~ a deal ~ <b>by that Friday</b> .

## Progressive

<b>a</b>	stated beginning and end of event	John ~ <b>will be staying</b> ~ in Europe ~ <b>for 10 days</b> .
<b>12</b>	<b>b</b> event duration from now to its conclusion	He ~ <b>will be preparing</b> ~ reports ~ <b>until he goes</b> .
	<b>c</b> event duration, following a future situation	He ~ <b>will be suffering</b> ~ with jetlag ~ <b>for 2,3 days</b> .

## Perfect

<b>13</b>	continuing until future situation	He ~ <b>will have been working</b> ~ on this ~ <b>for 6 weeks</b>
<b>14</b>	within time span leading up to future situation	He ~ <b>will have checked</b> ~ everything ~ <b>before signing</b> .
	<b>a</b> completion - The same as #9. A prediction.	He ~ <b>will finally have made</b> ~ a deal ~ on his own.
<b>15</b>	<b>b</b> anticipation - The same as #9. A prediction.	He ~ <b>won't have gotten over</b> ~ jetlag ~ <b>by Monday</b> .

## Coincidence/ Synchronicity

<b>x</b>	Event is coincidental with an (abrupt) action.	He ~ <b>will call</b> ~ us ~ <b>when he gets their proposal</b> . A car ~ <b>will be waiting</b> ~ for him ~ <b>when he arrives</b> .
<b>11</b>	<b>y</b> Event is synchronous with a (progressive) action	He ~ <b>will check</b> ~ the details ~ <b>while negotiating</b> . He ~ <b>will be staying</b> ~ at ABC Hotel ~ <b>while in Paris</b> .
<b>12</b>	<b>z</b> Event is synchronous with an event. (noun)	He ~ <b>will consult</b> ~ with us ~ <b>during the negotiations</b> . He ~ <b>will be using</b> ~ his laptop ~ <b>during his trip</b> .

## Past Simple

<b>a</b>	a point in the past	Mary ~ <b>got</b> ~ a big surprise ~ <b>last Saturday</b> .
<b>b</b>	preceding time span measured from now into past	Mary ~ <b>found</b> ~ a lamp ~ on the beach ~ <b>5 days ago</b> .
<b>c</b>	between 2 points in the past	Something strange ~ <b>happened</b> ~ <b>that afternoon</b> .
<b>21</b>	<b>d</b> habitual/ frequency in the past	She ~ <b>never used to believe</b> ~ in Genies.
	<b>e</b> deadline following past situation	Mary ~ <b>had to make</b> ~ 3 wishes ~ <b>within 3 minutes</b> .
	<b>f</b> follows past event after measured span of time	The Genie ~ <b>disappeared</b> ~ <b>3 minutes later</b> .

## Progressive

<b>a</b>	stated beginning and end of event in the past	Mary ~ <b>was considering her choices</b> ~ <b>for 4 minutes</b> .
<b>b</b>	that new situation	Mary ~ <b>was</b> ~ so disappointed ~ <b>then</b> .
<b>c</b>	completion, or expiration of previous situation	The Genie ~ <b>wasn't waiting</b> ~ for her ~ <b>any longer</b> .
<b>22</b>	<b>d</b> that continuing situation	Mary ~ <b>was still thinking</b> ~ about becoming rich .
	<b>e</b> anticipation	Mary ~ <b>wasn't enjoying</b> ~ a rich life ~ <b>yet</b> .
	<b>f</b> continuing from past situation to event conclusion	Mary ~ <b>was kicking</b> ~ herself ~ <b>for days</b> .

## Perfect

<b>23</b>	continuing until past situation	She ~ <b>had been walking</b> ~ on the beach ~ <b>for an hour</b> .
<b>24</b>	within time span leading up to past situation	She ~ <b>had never gotten</b> ~ three wishes ~ <b>before</b> .
	<b>a</b> completion - The same as #9 in a movie.	She ~ <b>had finally gotten</b> ~ some good luck.
<b>25</b>	<b>b</b> anticipation - The same as #9 in a movie.	She ~ <b>hadn't made up</b> ~ her mind ~ <b>yet</b> .

## Coincidence/ Synchronicity

<b>x</b>	Event is coincidental with an (abrupt) action.	A Genie ~ <b>appeared</b> ~ <b>when</b> she rubbed the lamp. She ~ <b>was trying to make</b> ~ a wish ~ <b>when</b> he vanished.
<b>21</b>	<b>y</b> Event is synchronous with a (progressive) action	The Genie ~ <b>vanished</b> ~ <b>while</b> she was trying to decide. She <b>wasn't considering</b> ~ the time~ <b>while thinking</b> .
<b>22</b>	<b>z</b> Event is synchronous with an event. (noun)	She ~ <b>had</b> ~ a weird experience ~ <b>during</b> her vacation. She ~ <b>was talking</b> ~ about it ~ <b>during</b> coffee break

## Multi-Past

<b>31</b>	Events prior to a past event.	He ~ <b>had gotten drunk</b> ~ <b>an hour before he crashed</b> .
<b>32</b>	Continuing events prior to a past situation	He ~ <b>had been drinking</b> ~ <b>all afternoon</b> .

## Conditional

<b>↗</b>	thought to be real/ factual/ likely to occur/ a plan	<b>If</b> ~ I ~ <b>am feeling better</b> / I ~ <b>will give</b> ~ you ~ a call.
<b>If ↗</b>	unreal/ counter-factual/ unlikely to occur/ crazy	<b>If</b> ~ I ~ <b>won</b> ~ \$1,000,000 / I ~ <b>could buy</b> ~ anything.
<b>↖</b>	Past counter-factual/ It didn't happen, but if ...	<b>If</b> ~ I ~ <b>had never met</b> ~ you/ I ~ <b>would be</b> ~ happy.

## Reported Speech

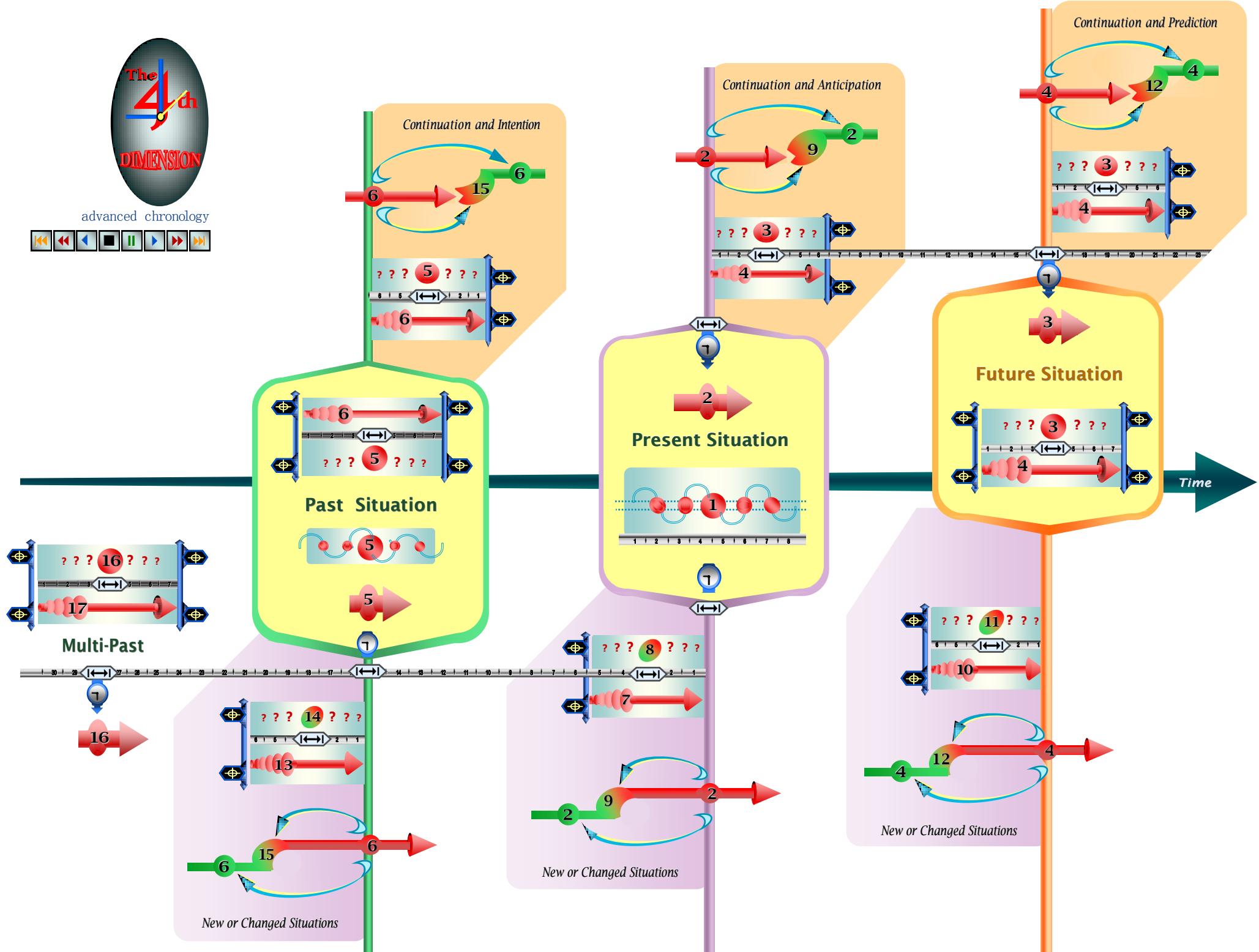
<b>a</b>	Events/ situations prior to the time of report.	<b>Bob:</b> I <b>bought</b> a new car last week. <b>Report:</b> Bob <b>said</b> that he <b>had bought</b> a new car.
<b>b</b>	Events/ situations at the time of report.	<b>Bob:</b> I <b>love</b> my new car. <b>Report:</b> Bob <b>said</b> that he <b>loved</b> his new car.
<b>c</b>	Events/ situations following the time of report.	<b>Bob:</b> I <b>will drive</b> to work tomorrow. <b>Report:</b> Bob <b>said</b> that he <b>would drive</b> to work.

This is the view of all English verb tenses, as presented in typical grammar texts.

Although impressive to behold, it is far too complex to be of much practical value to learners of a second language.



advanced chronology



This is my view of all English verb tenses, and as you can see, it is far simpler and easier to understand.

Any situation can be described simply (yellow sections), discussed in terms of how the situation has changed pink), or described as an on-going event (orange).

# Situation Overview

## Continuing Situations

<b>2d</b>	this continuing situation	He ~ <b>is still living</b> ~ like a pauper.
<b>2e</b>	anticipation of upcoming situation	He ~ <b>isn't making</b> ~ a lawyer's salary ~ <b>yet</b> .
<b>9b</b>	continuation of the current situation, or anticipation of events that would change it.	He ~ <b>hasn't decided</b> ~ if ~ he will take it ~ <b>yet</b> .

<b>2d</b>	event duration from now to its conclusion	He ~ <b>will be staying</b> ~ in a cheap apartment ~ <b>until</b> he gets a better job.
<b>2e</b>	within time span from now to deadline	He ~ <b>will have to prepare</b> ~ his presentation <b>by July 1<sup>st</sup></b> .

## Present . . . Progressi9ve

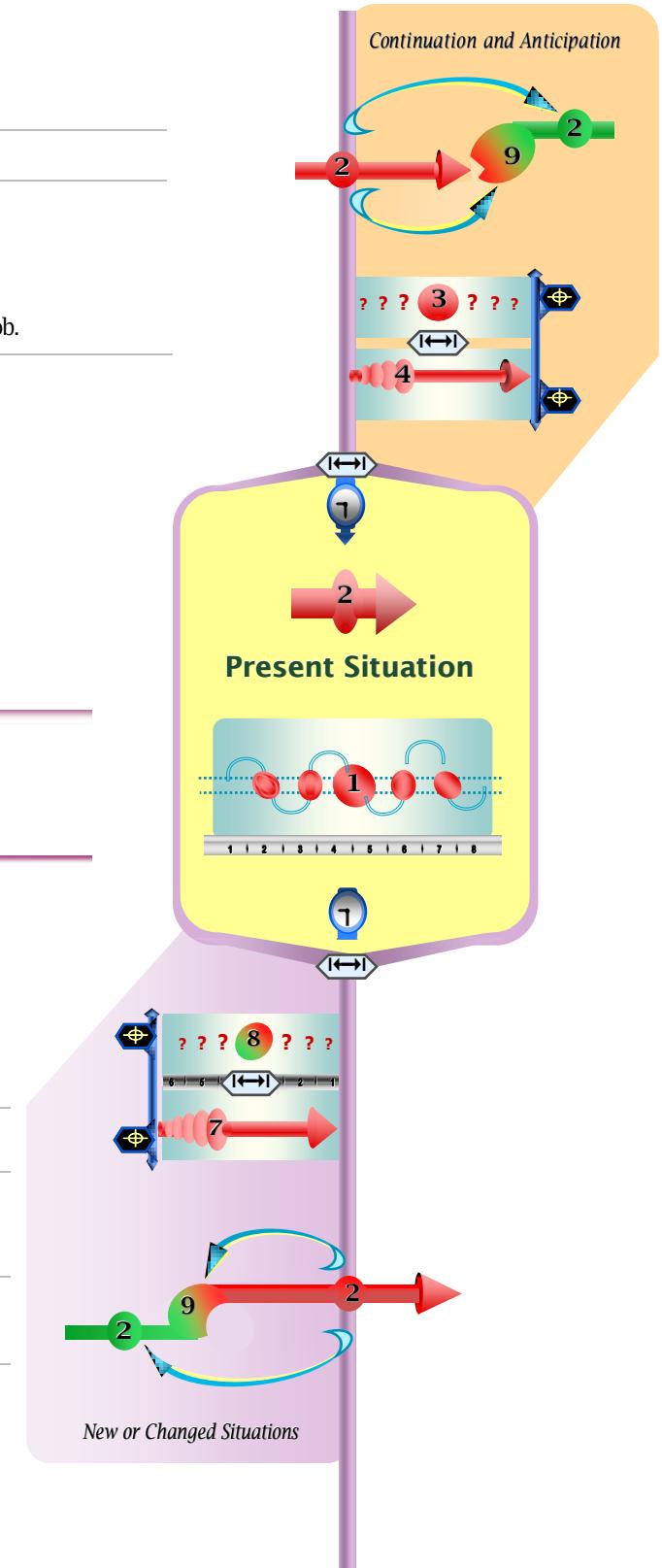
<b>2a</b>	this moment	He ~ <b>is checking</b> ~ <b>the newspaper</b> ~ <b>right now</b> .
-----------	-------------	---

## Present . . . Simple

<b>1a</b>	habitual actions	Philip ~ <b>usually works</b> ~ on Saturdays.
<b>1b</b>	frequency	He ~ <b>goes</b> ~ to University ~ <b>5 days a week</b> .

## New or Changed Situations

<b>7</b>	continuing until now	He ~ <b>has been looking</b> ~ for a job ~ <b>since Monday</b> .
<b>8</b>	within time span leading up to current situation	He ~ <b>has had</b> ~ three interviews ~ <b>since Monday</b> .
<b>2b</b>	this new situation	He ~ <b>is looking</b> ~ for a new job ~ <b>now</b> .
<b>2c</b>	completion, or expiration of previous situation	He ~ <b>isn't happy</b> ~ at the restaurant ~ <b>anymore</b> .
<b>9a</b>	completion of events resulting in current situation	He ~ <b>has already gotten</b> ~ one good job offer.



Comparison of “simple”, “continuing”, and “changed” situations.

## New or Changed Situations

### Basic Situation

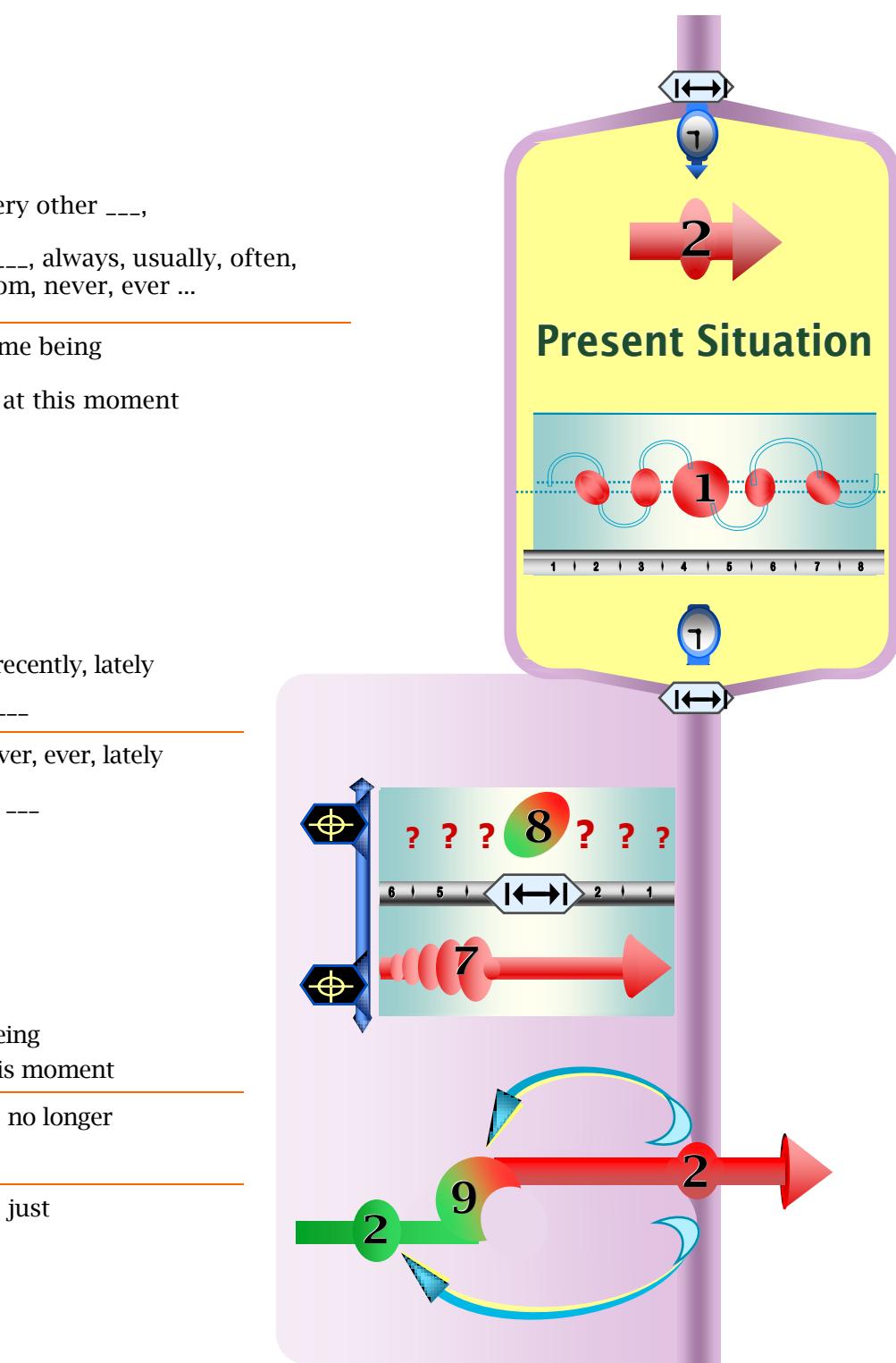
<b>1</b>	<i>He ~ plays ~ tennis</i>	<b>I↔I</b>	every ___, every other ___, once twice, three times a ___, always, usually, often, sometimes, seldom, never, ever ...
<b>2</b>	<i>He ~ is playing ~ tennis</i>	<b>I↔I</b>	for the time being now, right now, at this moment

### Elaborate on the basics

<b>7</b>	<i>He ~ has been playing ~ tennis</i>	<b>I↔I</b> <b>∅</b>	for ___, for the last ___, recently, lately since ___, all___
<b>8</b>	<i>He ~ has played ~ tennis</i>	<b>I↔I</b> <b>∅</b>	in the last ___, before, never, ever, lately since ___, this ___

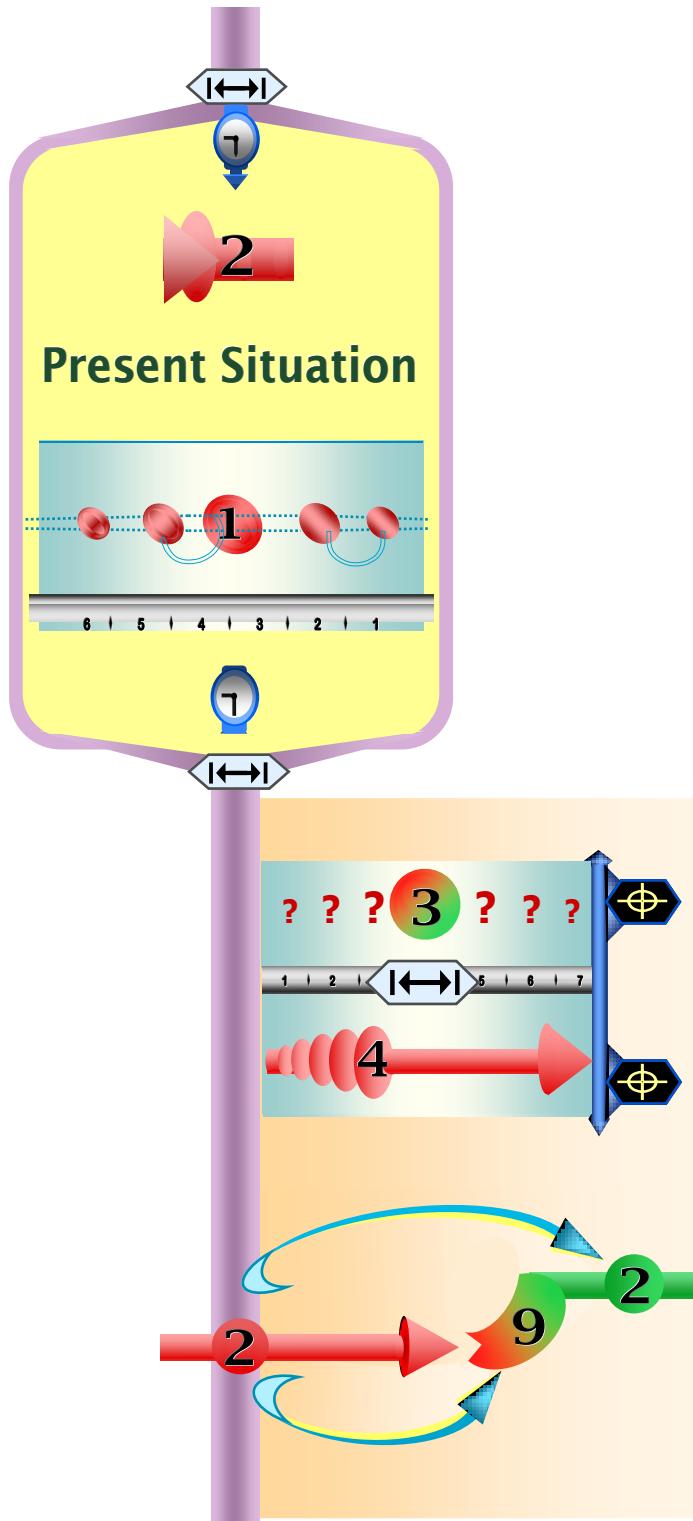
### Describe a new or changed situation

<b>2</b>	<i>He ~ is playing ~ tennis</i>	<b>I↔I</b> <b>~~~</b>	for the time being now, right now, at this moment
<b>2</b>	<i>He ~ isn't eating ~ dinner</i>	<b>I↔I</b> <b>∅</b>	anymore, any longer, no longer now
<b>9</b>	<i>He ~ has gone to play ~ tennis</i>		already, finally, just



When you want to emphasize how a situation has just evolved, you may select from among any of the verb forms within the pink field.

# Continuation and Anticipation



## Basic Situation

**1** *He ~ plays ~ tennis*



every \_\_\_, every other \_\_\_,

**2** *He ~ is playing ~ tennis*



for the time being



now, right now, at this moment

## Elaborate on the basics

**3** *He ~ will play ~ tennis*



in the next \_\_\_, all this/ next \_\_\_  
by \_\_\_,

**4** *He ~ will be playing ~ tennis*



for the next \_\_\_, this/next \_\_\_  
until \_\_\_

## Describe the anticipated situation

**2** *He ~ is playing ~ tennis*



still

**2** *He ~ isn't ~ at home*



right now  
yet

**9** *He ~ hasn't come ~ home*



yet

When you want to emphasize how a situation has is progressing, or anticipating how it might be resolved, you may select from among any of the verb forms within the orange field.