

The 12 (3 x 4) Verb Tense-Aspect Combinations in English

<u>Tense</u>		<u>Aspect</u>
Past		Simple
Present	x	Progressive
Future		Perfect
		Imperfect

----- Past

Past: Simple

Examples:

Meng said that she went to the party yesterday
If Meng had more money, she would buy a new bicycle.
I wanted to ask you a question
I/He/She was at the railway station.
We/They were at the railway station.

Past: Progressive (Continuous)

Examples:

Chen was studying English.
I/He/She was waiting at the railway station.
We/They were waiting at the railway station.

Past: Perfect (Action complete)

Examples:

Chen had studied English.
She had bought a new suitcase and had saved enough money to go somewhere nice.
I/He/She had been at the railway station around 5 p.m.
We/They had been at the railway station around 5 p.m.

Past: Imperfect (Action started in the past and ongoing; incomplete)

Examples:

I/He/She had been waiting at the railway station since 5 p.m.
We/They had been waiting at the railway station since 5 p.m.

----- **Present**

Present: Simple

Examples:

The sun rises in the east.

Peter is hungry

I wake up at 7:00 every morning./I usually walk to school./I speak Chinese

If it is nice this weekend, we will go to the beach

The bus leaves at noon.

Meng writes that Canada is a safe country.

So, I am sitting on the bus when suddenly someone stands up and asks me for money.

Walk towards the library. Open the door.

Romeo falls in love with Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet."

Li doesn't know where to go on her next holiday next week.

She doesn't want to go there again.

Besides the weather is too hot there

I am an Indian.

You are an Indian.

He/She is an Indian.

They are Indians.

Present: Progressive (Continuous)

Examples:

Chen is studying English.

I am reading 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

You/We are reading 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

He/She is reading 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

They are reading 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

Present: Perfect (Action complete)

Examples:

She has bought a new suitcase and has saved enough money to go somewhere nice.

She has been to Hong Kong before.

/You/We/They have read 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

He/She has read 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

Present: Imperfect (Action started in the past and ongoing; incomplete)

Examples:

I/You/We/They have been reading 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

He/She has been reading 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'.

----- **Future**

Future: Simple

Examples:

I/You/He/She/We/They will participate in the essay writing competition.

Future: Progressive (Continuous)

Examples:

I/You/He/She/We/They will be participating in the essay writing competition.

Future: Perfect (Action complete)

Examples:

I/You/He/She/We/They will have participated in the essay writing competition.

Future: Imperfect (Action started in the past and ongoing; incomplete)

Examples:

I/You/He/She/We/They will have been participating in the essay writing competition.