**English Tenses – Overview**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **SIMPLE** | | **CONTINUOUS** | |
| **PRESENT TENSES** | **Present simple - Gegenwart** | | **Present cont*in*uous/ progressive** | |
| ***How to form***  ***Bildung*** | *Personal Pronoun + first form of a verb* ***HE/SHE/IT + S***  *Fürwort (ich, du, er, sie…) + 1. Form eines Zeitwortes / Verbs* | | *Pronoun + form of „to be“ + verb + -ing* | |
| ***When to use***  **Wann wird es verwendet?** | * general truths (allgemein gültige Aussagen) * things that happen regularly | | * For things that happen while we are speaking (I am watching a video) * For future events that are fixed, arranged (We are leaving tomorrow) | |
| **Signalwörter**  **Words that indicate the use** | usually, all the time, often, generally, regularly, every day, always, on Mondays | | Now, at the moment, currently  Note: Always + negative connotation (I’m always losing things) | |
|  | **State verbs:**  To be (describing a state = Zustand)  To think (believe, understand, remember, mean, know)  To like (want, need, prefer)  To have (possess, belong, contain) – “besitzen” | | **Exceptions:** **NOT** with state verbs  To be (describing a state – it’s hot today – not it’s being hot)  To think (believe, understand, remember, mean, know)  To like (want, need, prefer)  To have (possess, belong, contain) – im Sinne von: besitzen | |
|  |  |  |  | |
| **Examples** | I play | He/She play**s** | I am playing | |
| **Negation** | I don’t play | She doesn’t play | She is playing | |
| **Question** | Do I play? | Does she play? | Is she playing? **Achtung: Wortstellung bei Fragen** | |
| Word order in questions!!! | No do/does with „be”, can,… |  |  | |
|  | I am not, I can’t… | He isn’t, he can’t |  | |
| **PRESENT PERFECT** | **Present perfect simple - Vergangenheit** | | **Present perfect continuous** | |
| ***How to form*** | ***Have/has*** *+* ***third form*** *(=past participle)* | *Ich habe gelernt, gespielt, ....* | *Have/has + been + verb + -ing* | |
| **When to use** | * Recent events (I’ve just seen a great film) * When there is a connection to the present (I’ve lost my key) | | * Activities that have started in the past and are ongoing (I have been studying English for 2 years) | |
| **Signalwörter**  **Words that indicate the use -** | **Just, already, yet, ever, never, for (period of time), since (point in time)** | | All day/week/year long, How long, since, for | |
| **Examples** | I have played | She has played | I have been playing | She has been playing |
| **Negation** | I haven’t played | She hasn’t played | I haven’t been playing | She hasn’t been playing |
| **Question** | Have I played? | Has she played? | Have I been playing? | Has she been playing? |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **PAST TENSES** | **Past simple** | **Mitvergangenheit /Präteritum** | **Past continuous** | |
| ***How to form*** | *Regular: Verb +* ***-ed***  ***Irregular verbs****: see list (had, did, saw, went, .....)* | | ***Was/were*** *+* ***verb*** *+* ***-ing*** | |
| **When to use** | * Completed actions in the past, especially repeated ones (diary entry) – p.e. First I got up and had breakfast, then I brushed my teeth | | * Ongoing actions in the past, especially when interrupted by short events or actions (= past simple)   While I was watching TV, the telephone rang. | |
| **Signalwörter**  **Words that indicate the use** | * **Last year/week, on Monday, a while AGO, when I was young, in 2011** * **With state verbs (Zustandsverben)** | | * WHILE, When * NOT with state verbs | |
| **Examples** | I played | She played | I was playing | She was playing |
| **Negation** | I didn’t play | She didn’t play | I wasn’t playing | She wasn’t playing |
| **Question** | Did I play? | Did she play? | Was I playing? | Was she playing? |
| **Special forms**  **Sonderformen** | **Used to** |  | **Would** |  |
| **When to use** | Habitual actions and states in the past | | Habitual actions in the past (NOT states) | |
| **Example** | I used to play tennis when I was a child  I used to be a great tennis player | | I would play tennis when I was young | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **PAST PERFECT** | **Past perfect simple** | **Vergangenheit / Perfekt** | **Past perfect continuous** |  |
| ***How to build*** | *Had + third form* |  | *Had + been + verb + - ing* |  |
| **When to use** | Event in the past that happened BEFORE another event in the past | | Action in the past happening BEFORE another action/event in the past | |
| **Words that indicate the use** |  |  | BEFORE, AFTER |  |
| **Examples** | I had played | She had played | I had been playing | She had been playing |
| **Negation** | I hadn’t played | She hadn’t played | I hadn’t been playing | She hadn’t been playing |
| **Question** | Had I played? | Had she played? | Had I been playing? | Had she been playing? |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Future tenses** | **Will-future** |  | **Going-to future** |  |
| *How to build* | *Will + verb* |  | *Going to + verb* |  |
| When to use | Spontaneous decisions (You are going out? I’ll join you)  Not very certain predictions (It’ll probably rain) | | Intentions, plans (I’m going to sell my car)  Predictions with a high degree of certainty (The clouds are very dark – it is going to rain) | |
| **Signalwörter**  Words that indicate the use | I think, believe, suppose |  |  |  |
| **Examples** | I will play | She will play | I am going to play | She is going to play |
| **Negation** | I won’t play | She won’t play | I am not going to play | She is not going to play |
| **Question** | Will I play? | Will she play? | Am I going to play? | Is she going to play? |

**If-sentences (Conditionals)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type 0** | **If-clause** | **Main sentence** |
| *How to form* | *If+present tense* | *Present tense* |
| When to use | For things that always happen, rules of nature | |
| Example | If glass falls on a stone floor, it breaks. | |
|  |  |  |
| **Type 1** | **If-clause** | **Main sentence** |
| *How to form* | *If+present tense* | *Will-future* |
| When to use | For possible future events; High degree of probability (möglich und wahrscheinlich) | |
| Examples | If I study, | I will pass the test. |
|  |  |  |
| **Type 2** | **If-clause** | **Main sentence** |
| *How to form* | *If + past simple* | *Would + infinitive (=Conditional 1)* |
| When to use | For unlikely future situations (still possible, but not very likely),  For giving advice | |
| Example | If I studied, | I would pass the test. |
|  | If I were you, | I would study harder |
|  |  |  |
| **Type 3** | **If-clause** | **Main sentence** |
| *How to form* | *If+past perfect* | *Would have + 3rd form (=Conditional 2)* |
| When to use | For unreal situations in the past, unfulfilled hopes, things that unfortunately did not happen | |
| Example | If I had studied, | I would have passed the test |