

# Grammar Reference

## Mixed tenses

### Present simple and present continuous:

We use the **present continuous** for things that are happening now and for temporary situations. We often use time expressions like *at the moment, this week, these days*.

***We're staying*** in a fantastic hotel in Goa ***this week***.

What ***are you doing*** ***these days***?

I hope ***you aren't working*** too hard.

We use the **present simple** for things that we do regularly and for permanent situations. We often use adverbs of frequency and time expressions like *every day, on Saturdays*.

***I swim every day*** before breakfast.

***Jake doesn't get up*** that early though.

***It usually begins*** around June.

### Past simple and present perfect:

We use the **past simple** tense when an action or situation happens and finishes in the past. We usually say or know when it happens.

***We arrived two days ago***.

***I didn't realise*** before that it usually begins around June.

***Did you manage*** to book that hotel while there was a cheap offer?

We use the **present perfect** in several ways.

1) to talk about our experiences in the past. We don't say when these happened because we are interested in the experience, not the time or date. We often use the words **ever** and **never**.

***Have you ever been*** here?

***I've never been*** to Goa.

2) to talk about situations that started in the past and are continuing now. We sometimes ask a question with **how long + the present perfect** and we answer it with the words **for** or **since**.

***How long has Mia been*** in Goa?

***She's been*** there ***for*** two days. / ***She's been*** there ***since*** Wednesday.

***It's been*** really hot ***since*** then.

3) to say whether an action has happened or not at the present time. The words **just**, **already** and **yet** are very common with this use of the present perfect.

***I've already done*** some sunbathing.

***We haven't seen*** much yet.

***The sun's just*** disappeared!

### Present continuous and **be going to** for future

We use the present continuous to talk about the future when we have made an arrangement to do something. Perhaps we have already booked tickets for something.

***We're coming home*** next Wednesday.

We use **be going to + infinitive** for future plans.

***We're going to visit*** the Saturday Night Market tomorrow.

***Are you going to go*** to Egypt in September?

We also use **be going to** for something that we expect to happen because we know that it is very likely. We can't use the present continuous in this way.

***They say that the rainy season is going to start*** soon.

### Examples of form

**Present simple**

- *I/We/You/They swim.*
- *He/She/It swims.*
- *I/We/You/They **do not** swim.*
- *He/She/It **does not** swim.*

**Present simple questions**

- *Do I/we/you/they swim?*
- *Does he/she/it swim?*

**Present continuous**

- *I am swimming.*
- *He/She/It is swimming.*
- *We/You/They are swimming.*
- *I am not swimming.*
- *He/She/It is **not** swimming.*
- *We/You/They are **not** swimming.*

**Present continuous questions**

- *Am I swimming?*
- *Is he/she/it swimming?*
- *Are we/you/they swimming?*

**Past simple**

- *I/He/She/It/We/You/They started.*
- *I/He/She/It/We/You/They **did not** start.*

**Past simple questions**

- *Did I/he/she/it/we/you/they start?*

**Present perfect**

- *I/We/You/They have started.*
- *He/She/It has started*
- *I/We/You/They have **not** started.*
- *He/She/It has **not** started.*

**Present perfect questions**

- *Have I/we/you/they started?*

**Going to + infinitive**

- *I am going to stay.*
- *He/She/It is going to stay.*
- *We/You/They are going to stay.*
- *I am **not** going to stay.*
- *He/She/It is **not** going to stay.*
- *We/You/They are **not** going to stay.*

**Going to questions**

- *Am I going to stay?*
- *Is he/she/it going to stay?*
- *Are we/you/they going to stay?*

