**TIME RELATED ACTIVE VERB CONSTRUCTIONS**

**FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE**

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| The simple form is used for facts, truths, verbs of state, mind related verbs (like, hate, doubt) |  | The continuous form is used for actions in course at a given moment/period in time |
| **PAST PERFECT SIMPLE**  John had **already** seen the film so he didn’t come with us.  Had you **ever** visited a museum **before** you went to Rome?  We had lived in London for years **before** we could afford to buy a house. | Related to a fact (simple)/the duration of an action (continuous) which precedes a point of time in the past | **PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**  There **was** a hole in John’s trousers because he had been fighting.  I had been waiting for the bus **for an hour** when it finally **arrived**.  **How long** had they been playing tennis when it started raining? |
| **PAST SIMPLE**  I visited London **last year**.  Did you see John **yesterday**?  I didn’t buy the green dress, I bought the red one.  Where were you when it started raining?  John arrived ten minutes **ago**. | Related to a discernible point of time in the past. | **PAST CONTINUOUS**  I wasn’t watching TV **when** you called me.  What were you doing **when** the accident occurred?  Mary fell off the ladder **while** she was painting the ceiling. |
| **PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE**  Have you **ever** been to London?  I have seen this film **three times.**  John hasn’t finished his homework **yet.**  I haven’t been to the cinema **this week.** | Related to a fact (simple)/the duration of an action (continuous) which precedes the present time (before now) | **PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS**  **How long** have you been waiting for me?  My hands are dirty because I have been repairing my bicycle.  You look tired! Have you been working hard? |
| **PRESENT SIMPLE**  I live in London.  Where does John live?  We don’t know the answer.  John hasn’t got a dog.  Who are you?  Water boils at 100°C.  They **usually** go to the cinema once a week. | Simple: something which is always true, frequency, habits, facts  Continuous: Action now/ at the moment of speaking. Actions which disturb us. | **PRESENT CONTINUOUS**  What is John doing? – He’s washing the car.  Be quiet**!** I’m studying for my exams.  Excuse me. Is anybody sitting here?  I don’t like him, he’s **always** smoking when I see him. |
| **PRESENT SIMPLE (FUTURE)**  When does **school** start this year? **It** starts in September.  What time is **the meeting**? **It**’s at 3 p.m.  Does this shop open today?  No, but it is open tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  What time does your flight leave?  It doesn’t leave until 9.00. | Simple: timetable of **things** and events.  Continuous: **People’s** actions arranged for the future/programs | **PRESENT CONTINUOUS (FUTURE)**  What time is John leaving? He is leaving on the midnight train.  John is coming to visit us **next week.**  What are you doing **on Saturday morning? I’**m going to the park.  **I’m sorry!** I can’t help you. I’m playing tennis with John **this afternoon.** |
| **FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE**  Come to my office at 8.00 tomorrow. I will have finished my project **by then**.  I’m not sure that I will have readall these books **before** the exam. | A fact/action takes place before, and is related to, a future point in time. | **FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS**  When I retire **next June**, I will have been working for this company **for twenty-five years**.  When the ceremony finishes those soldiers will have been standing to attention for two hours. |
| **FUTURE SIMPLE – Will**  Will you help me(to) open the window?  I **promise** I won’t go there.  I like it! I’ll buy it.  It will rain in London tomorrow  John will be 27 in June.  When you arrive, I’ll meet you.  I don’t **think** it will rain.  **If** it rains I will cancel the event. | Simple: ‘Will’ takes the verb associated to it into the future.  Continuous: at a future point in time this action will be ongoing. | **FUTURE CONTINUOUS**  Don’t phone me this evening. I’ll be watching the Cup Final on TV and I don’t want to be disturbed.  **This time next week** I’ll be lying on a beach in Italy.  John won’t be coming with us because he is ill.  **In a few years’ time** a lot of people will be working from home. |
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| **IN ADDITION:** |  |  |
| **Future clauses with simple present**  **When** I arrive I will phone you.  **As soon as** I arrive I’ll call.  **Before** I leave I’ll call you.  **If** it stops raining we can go to the shops.  I hope to see John **while** I am in London next week.  **Future clauses with present perfect**  After I have phoned John, we can have lunch.  When you have finished with the newspaper, may I borrow it? | Future clauses with ‘when, as soon as, until, till, before, after, as long as, providing, while ‘  No specific future time is mentioned.  Sequence of events where the first event is completed before the second takes place. |  |
| **GOING TO**  I’m going to watch TV.  John says he is going to visit Italy sooner or later.  Look at those clouds! It’s going to rain. | People’s intentions  Predictions based on the present |  |
| **ABOUT TO**  The Queen is about to present the soldier with his medal.  You are about to see something very unusual.  John is about to go to a meeting. He hasn’t got time to talk to you now. | Immediate future |  |
| **FUTURE IN THE PAST**  I knew John would arrive on time.  He promised he would send us some money as soon as he could.  I knew he wouldn’t keep the secret.  I thought John was going to make a mistake.  On Monday I was told they were going to give me some money. | Expresses the idea that at a point of time in the past something would/might happen in the future |  |