

Present simple




To describe something that usually happens in the present.

- ✓  verb
- ✗  don't doesn't verb
- ??  Do Does verb

EX: I go to school every day.

Past simple

To describe something that already happened. We must indicate when (yesterday, last week...)




- ✓  verb (ed/2c)
- ✗  didn't verb (infinitive)
- ??  Did verb (infinitive)

EX: Yesterday I went to the cinema.

In ...
... ago
Yesterday
Last ...

Present continuous




To describe something that is happening at the moment

- ✓  to be verb ing
- ✗  to be not verb ing
- ??  To be verb ing

EX: I am writing at the moment.

Past continuous




To describe something that was happening in some moment in the past

- ✓  to be (past) verb ing
- ✗  to be (past) not verb ing
- ??  to be (past) verb ing

EX: Yesterday at 1pm I was having lunch.

Present perfect




To describe an action that began in the past and continues until the present.

- ✓  have has verb(ed/3c)
- ✗  have has not verb(ed/3c)
- ??  Have Has verb(ed/3c)

EX: They have been married for 20 years.
They married in the past, but they are still married, so we need to use present perfect

Past perfect

A completed action which took place before another action in the past.

- ✓  had verb(ed/3c)
- ✗  had not verb(ed/3c)
- ??  Had verb(ed/3c)

EX: When we got home, the children had already had dinner.
This happened before we got home, so we need to use past perfect

Yet
Already
Just
Before
For
Recently
Ever
Since