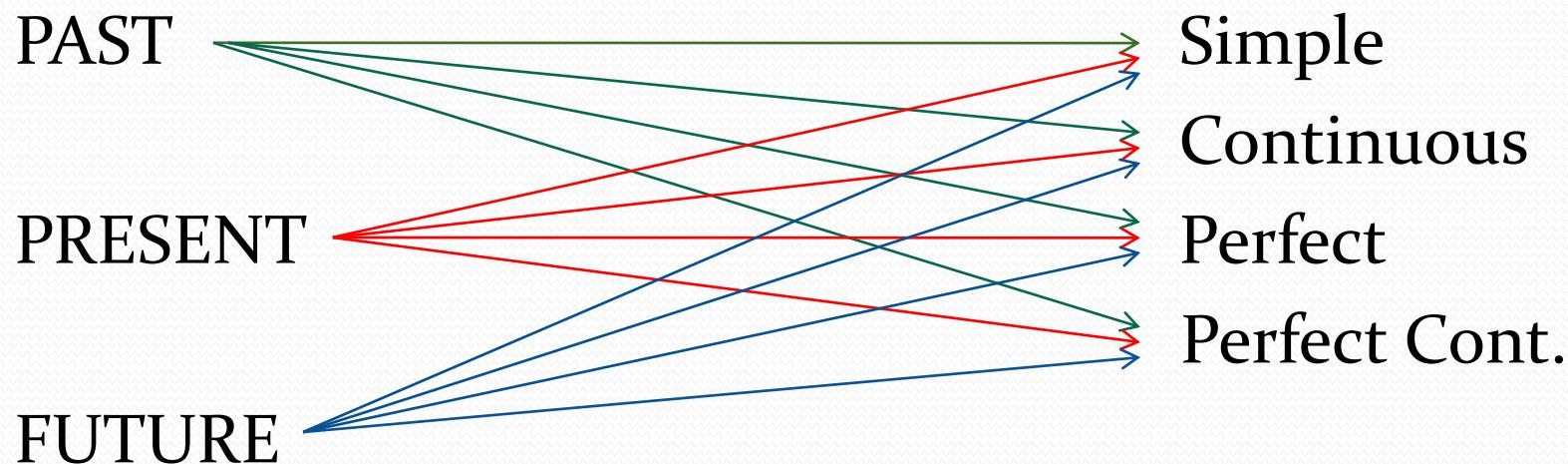


The Tense and Aspect System

Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman

Tense + Aspect



Form dimension

	SIMPLE	CONTINUOUS	PERFECT	PERFECT CONT.
		Be + VP-ing	Have + PP	Have + BEEN + VP-ing
Present	walk/walks watch/watches study/studies	am/is/are walking	have/has walked	have/has been walking
Past	walked saw	was/were walking	had walked	had been walking
Future	will walk	will be walking	will have walked	will have been walking

Meaning dimension

Simple Aspect

Complete
Permanent

[habits, routines, permanent truth]

Meaning dimension

Continuous Aspect

Imperfective
Incomplete

[In progress at the moment of the speech]

Meaning dimension

Perfect Aspect

Prior to now
Indefinite time
Focus on the action

[Idea of a continuum]

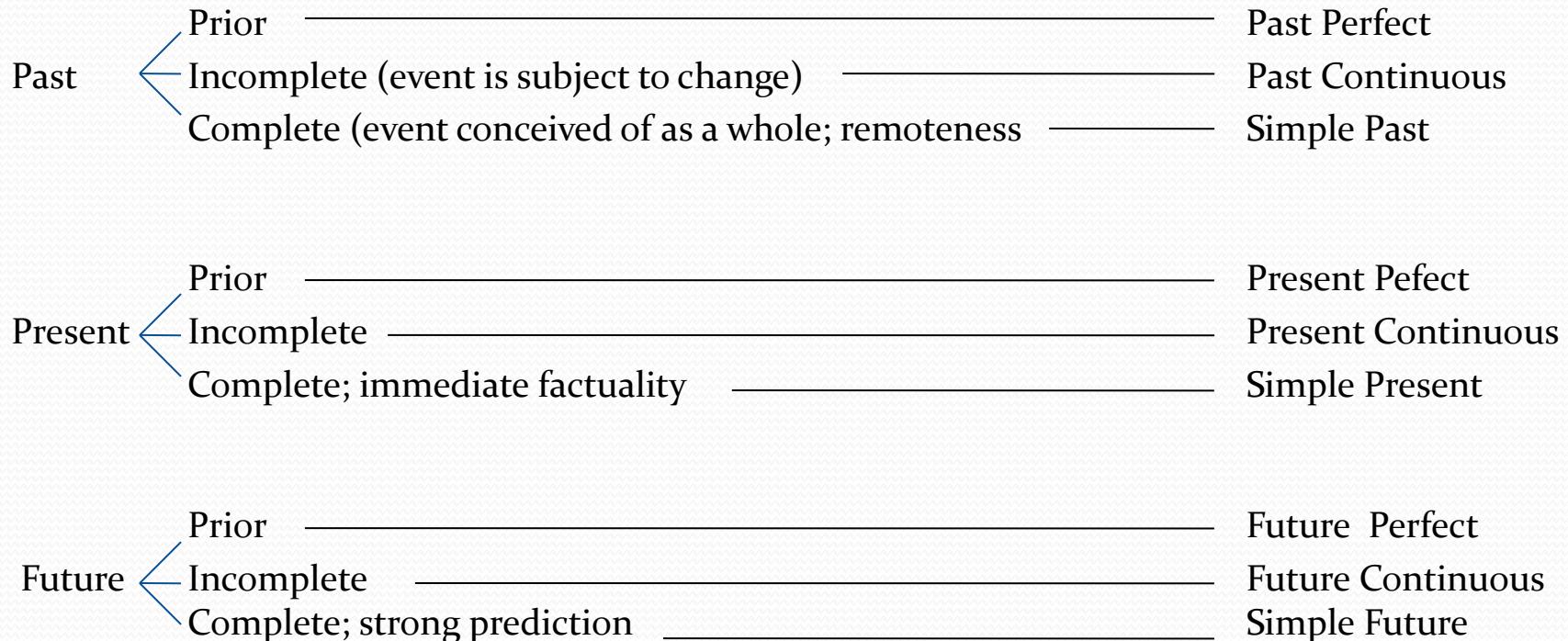
Meaning dimension

Perfect Continuous Aspect

Prior to now
Incompleteness
Focus on the action
Indefinite time

[Idea of a continuum]

Core Meanings of the English Tense-Aspect System



Example Sentences

1. Marty **lives** in Georgia.
2. He **walks** to school every day.
3. Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
4. I **know** Mr. Watson.
5. The house **belongs** to me.
6. Now, I **understand**.
7. Now I **add** two cups of milk to the mixture.
8. So he **opens** his box and a rabbit **comes out** of it.
9. The earth **rotates** around the sun.

Example Sentences

1. Daniel won a big amount of money last year.
2. I finished my essay.
3. I attended a course in my college last month.
4. It rained a lot last summer.
5. Jennifer worked at that hospital for 20 years.
6. He appeared to be a creative genius.
7. Did you want to sit down and stay a while.

Example Sentences

1. We will finish the book this term.
2. Fernando will take his exam next week.
3. After July, Kim will take the ferry to Paris every day.
4. Susan will wake up, and before breakfast she'll take her doll.
5. Caio will live in New York until she improves his English.

Example Sentences

1. I have been a nurse since 1989.
2. He has already seen that movie.
3. Claire has just finished her reading.
4. His shares have doubled in the last three weeks.
5. I'll talk to her after I have finished my appointment.

Example Sentences

1. When I came home, she had already left.
2. She had worked for the BBC before 2001.

Example Sentences

1. I will have finished graduation by 2009.
2. In 2010, the Browns' will have been married for 20 years.

Example Sentences

1. He is playing soccer now.
2. I'm living with aunt in London.
3. I'm doing Engeneering at UFMG.
4. Robert is kicking the soccer ball around the backyard.
5. Tom is coming next week.
6. He's forever acting up at these affairs.
7. She's becoming more and more like her mother.

Example Sentences

1. He was walking to school at 8:30h this morning.
2. Susan was cooking when Mark arrived.
3. Mark was watching TV while Susan was cooking.
4. Jack was sneezing all day long.
5. I was hoping if you could do me a favor.

Example Sentences

1. He will be working from 9 to 12 next week.
2. Michael will be studying hard for the next 2 weeks.

Example Sentences

1. Bob has been doing a lot of courses on Chemistry.
2. Anna has been reading one of Shakespeare's books.
3. They have been working harder and harder
4. You've been eating again!

Example Sentences

1. Dennis had been studying hard, so his father asked him to give a break and rest a little.
2. We had been saving to go to the USA, but changed our minds after receiving the brochure on New Zealand.
3. I had been wanting to see that play, so I was pleased when I won the tickets.