

English Tenses Notes: Present, Past, and Future

How to Use These Notes

For each tense: **When it's used** → **Form (Affirmative / Negative / Interrogative)** → **Examples** → **Exercises (10 items)**. Fill in the blanks with the correct verb form.

Present Simple

When it's used

- Habits and routines: "I get up at 7."
- General truths and facts: "Water boils at 100°C."
- Timetables/scheduled events (future reference): "The train leaves at 6."
- States, feelings, opinions (non-action verbs): "She likes coffee."

Form

Affirmative: *Subject + base verb* (add *-s/-es* with he/she/it).

Negative: *Subject + do not (don't) / does not (doesn't) + base verb.*

Interrogative: *Do/Does + subject + base verb?*

Examples

- A: *She works* in marketing.
- N: *They don't watch* TV on weekdays.
- Q: *Does he play* tennis on Sundays?

Exercises

Complete with the Present Simple.

1. My brother _____ (live) near the stadium.
2. We _____ (study) English every day.
3. _____ (your father / drive) to work?
4. She _____ (not like) spicy food.
5. The museum _____ (open) at 10 a.m.
6. Where _____ (you / come) from?
7. He _____ (watch) the news at night.

8. They _____ (not believe) that story.
9. _____ (it / rain) a lot here in spring?
10. Anna _____ (teach) math at a high school.

Present Continuous (Progressive)

When it's used

- Actions happening now or around now: "She is reading."
- Temporary situations: "I'm living with friends this month."
- Changing/developing situations: "The weather is getting colder."
- Planned near-future arrangements: "We are meeting at 6."

Form

Affirmative: *Subject + am/is/are + verb-ing.*

Negative: *Subject + am/is/are + not + verb-ing.*

Interrogative: *Am/Is/Are + subject + verb-ing?*

Examples

- A: *They are working* on a new app.
- N: *I am not watching* TV right now.
- Q: *Are you studying* for the test?

Exercises

Complete with the Present Continuous.

1. Look! The kids _____ (play) outside.
2. I _____ (not work) this week.
3. _____ (she / cook) dinner now?
4. They _____ (move) to a new flat this weekend.
5. The company _____ (grow) quickly.
6. Why _____ (you / laugh)?
7. He _____ (not use) his phone at the moment.
8. We _____ (plan) a surprise party.
9. _____ (it / snow) right now?
10. I _____ (read) an amazing book these days.

Present Perfect

When it's used

- Life experiences (time not specified): "I have visited Japan."
- Recent events with present results: "She has broken her arm."
- Unfinished time period: "We have worked a lot this week."
- Changes over time / achievements: "He has improved a lot."

Form

Affirmative: *Subject + have/has + past participle (V3).*

Negative: *Subject + have/has not (haven't/hasn't) + V3.*

Interrogative: *Have/Has + subject + V3?*

Examples

- A: *She has finished* her homework.
- N: *They haven't seen* that movie.
- Q: *Have you ever tried* sushi?

Exercises

Use the Present Perfect.

1. I _____ (not finish) the report yet.
2. _____ (you / ever / be) to Canada?
3. She _____ (lose) her keys.
4. They _____ (work) here since 2022.
5. He _____ (just / call) me.
6. We _____ (not decide) the date.
7. _____ (the train / leave)?
8. My English _____ (improve) a lot.
9. She _____ (visit) London three times.
10. They _____ (not see) each other lately.

Past Simple

When it's used

- Completed actions at a specific time in the past: "He left in 2019."
- Past habits and sequences: "I walked home and cooked dinner."

Form

Affirmative: *Subject + past form (V2).*

Negative: *Subject + did not (didn't) + base verb.*

Interrogative: *Did + subject + base verb?*

Examples

- A: *We visited* Rome last year.
- N: *She didn't enjoy* the concert.
- Q: *Did you finish* the task?

Exercises

Use the Past Simple.

1. They _____ (arrive) late yesterday.
2. I _____ (not understand) the question.
3. _____ (you / see) the eclipse?
4. She _____ (buy) a new laptop.
5. We _____ (walk) along the river.
6. He _____ (not call) me last night.
7. Where _____ (they / go) on holiday?
8. The meeting _____ (start) at 9.
9. I _____ (lose) my wallet on the bus.
10. She _____ (study) French at school.

Past Continuous

When it's used

- Actions in progress at a specific past time: "At 8 pm, I was studying."
- Background action interrupted by a shorter action (Past Simple): "I was cooking when he arrived."
- Parallel past actions: "She was reading while I was writing."

Form

Affirmative: *Subject + was/were + verb-ing.*

Negative: *Subject + was/were + not + verb-ing.*

Interrogative: *Was/Were + subject + verb-ing?*

Examples

- A: *They were driving* home at 7.
- N: *I wasn't listening* to the radio.

- Q: *Were you waiting* for long?

Exercises

Use the Past Continuous (and Past Simple where needed).

1. I _____ (watch) TV when the phone _____ (ring).
2. They _____ (not sleep) at midnight.
3. _____ (she / drive) when it _____ (start) to rain?
4. We _____ (have) dinner while our friends _____ (talk).
5. He _____ (jog) in the park at 6 am.
6. The kids _____ (play) when the lights _____ (go) out.
7. I _____ (not pay) attention.
8. _____ (they / argue) about the price?
9. She _____ (read) while I _____ (cook).
10. What _____ (you / do) at 9 last night?

Past Perfect

When it's used

- The earlier of two past actions: "He had left before I arrived."
- Cause-and-effect in the past: "She was tired because she had worked all day."

Form

Affirmative: *Subject + had + past participle (V3).*

Negative: *Subject + had not (hadn't) + V3.*

Interrogative: *Had + subject + V3?*

Examples

- A: *They had finished* the project before the deadline.
- N: *I hadn't seen* him before that day.
- Q: *Had she studied* enough for the exam?

Exercises

Use the Past Perfect (and Past Simple where needed).

1. By 8 o'clock, we _____ (finish) dinner.
2. She was angry because he _____ (forget) her birthday.
3. _____ (you / ever / try) sushi before that night?
4. They _____ (leave) when I arrived.
5. He _____ (not read) the book before the class.

6. After we _____ (pack), we called a taxi.
7. I realized I _____ (lose) my keys.
8. _____ (she / finish) the report by Monday?
9. The match _____ (already / start) when we got there.
10. They were happy because they _____ (win).

Future with *will*

When it's used

- Instant decisions and offers: "I'll help you."
- Predictions without present evidence: "It'll be sunny tomorrow."
- Promises and future facts: "I won't tell anyone."

Form

Affirmative: *Subject + will + base verb.*

Negative: *Subject + will not (won't) + base verb.*

Interrogative: *Will + subject + base verb?*

Examples

- A: *I will call* you later.
- N: *She won't agree* to that plan.
- Q: *Will they arrive* on time?

Exercises

Use *will*.

1. Don't worry, I _____ (send) the email now.
2. _____ (they / come) to the meeting?
3. She _____ (not accept) the offer.
4. I think it _____ (rain) tomorrow.
5. We _____ (finish) the task this afternoon.
6. _____ (you / help) me with this box?
7. He _____ (be) 30 next year.
8. The team _____ (not give up).
9. What time _____ (the show / start)?
10. I promise I _____ (call) you back.

Future with *be going to*

When it's used

- Plans and intentions decided before speaking: "We're going to visit Peru."
- Predictions based on present evidence: "Look at those clouds! It's going to rain."

Form

Affirmative: *Subject + am/is/are + going to + base verb.*

Negative: *Subject + am/is/are + not + going to + base verb.*

Interrogative: *Am/Is/Are + subject + going to + base verb?*

Examples

- A: *They are going to start* a podcast.
- N: *I'm not going to buy* that phone.
- Q: *Are you going to apply* for the job?

Exercises

Use *be going to*.

1. We _____ (visit) my grandparents this weekend.
2. _____ (she / study) abroad next year?
3. He _____ (not change) his plan.
4. Look at the sky! It _____ (storm).
5. I _____ (start) a new course in November.
6. They _____ (renovate) their kitchen soon.
7. _____ (you / tell) her the news?
8. The company _____ (launch) a new product.
9. I'm tired, I _____ (not cook) tonight.
10. When _____ (we / leave)?

Answer Key (Suggested)

Optional: Add your own answer key here once students finish.

Presente Simple (Present Simple)

Cuándo se usa

- Hábitos y rutinas: “I get up at 7.” (Me levanto a las 7.)
- Verdades generales: “Water boils at 100°C.” (El agua hierve a 100°C.)
- Horarios o hechos fijos: “The train leaves at 6.” (El tren sale a las 6.)
- Estados, gustos y opiniones: “She likes coffee.” (A ella le gusta el café.)

Cómo se forma

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + verbo base* (añadir *-s/-es* con *he/she/it*).

Negativa: *Sujeto + do not (don't) / does not (doesn't) + verbo base.*

Interrogativa: *Do/Does + sujeto + verbo base?*

Ejemplos

- A: *She works* in marketing.
- N: *They don't watch* TV on weekdays.
- Q: *Does he play* tennis on Sundays?

Ejercicios

Completa con el **Presente Simple**.

1. My brother _____ (live) near the stadium.
2. We _____ (study) English every day.
3. _____ (your father / drive) to work?
4. She _____ (not like) spicy food.
5. The museum _____ (open) at 10 a.m.
6. Where _____ (you / come) from?
7. He _____ (watch) the news at night.
8. They _____ (not believe) that story.
9. _____ (it / rain) a lot here in spring?
10. Anna _____ (teach) math at a high school.

Presente Continuo (Present Continuous)

Cuándo se usa

- Acciones que ocurren ahora o alrededor de ahora: “She is reading.”
- Situaciones temporales: “I’m living with friends this month.”
- Cambios o desarrollos: “The weather is getting colder.”
- Planes cercanos: “We are meeting at 6.”

Cómo se forma

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + am/is/are + verbo-ing.*

Negativa: *Sujeto + am/is/are + not + verbo-ing.*

Interrogativa: *Am/Is/Are + sujeto + verbo-ing?*

Ejemplos

- A: *They are working* on a new app.
- N: *I am not watching* TV right now.
- Q: *Are you studying* for the test?

Ejercicios

Completa con el **Presente Continuo**.

1. Look! The kids _____ (play) outside.
2. I _____ (not work) this week.
3. _____ (she / cook) dinner now?
4. They _____ (move) to a new flat this weekend.
5. The company _____ (grow) quickly.
6. Why _____ (you / laugh)?
7. He _____ (not use) his phone at the moment.
8. We _____ (plan) a surprise party.
9. _____ (it / snow) right now?
10. I _____ (read) an amazing book these days.

Presente Perfecto (Present Perfect)

Cuándo se usa

- Experiencias de vida (sin tiempo específico): "I have visited Japan."
- Acciones recientes con resultado presente: "She has broken her arm."
- Períodos no terminados: "We have worked a lot this week."
- Cambios o logros: "He has improved a lot."

Cómo se forma

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + have/has + participio pasado (V3).*

Negativa: *Sujeto + have/has not (haven't/hasn't) + V3.*

Interrogativa: *Have/Has + sujeto + V3?*

Ejemplos

- A: *She has finished* her homework.
- N: *They haven't seen* that movie.
- Q: *Have you ever tried* sushi?

Ejercicios

Completa con el **Presente Perfecto**.

1. I _____ (not finish) the report yet.
2. _____ (you / ever / be) to Canada?
3. She _____ (lose) her keys.
4. They _____ (work) here since 2022.
5. He _____ (just / call) me.
6. We _____ (not decide) the date.
7. _____ (the train / leave)?
8. My English _____ (improve) a lot.
9. She _____ (visit) London three times.
10. They _____ (not see) each other lately.

Pasado Simple (Past Simple)

Cuándo se usa

- Acciones terminadas en un tiempo específico: "He left in 2019."
- Hábitos o secuencias en el pasado: "I walked home and cooked dinner."

Cómo se forma

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + verbo en pasado (V2).*

Negativa: *Sujeto + did not (didn't) + verbo base.*

Interrogativa: *Did + sujeto + verbo base?*

Ejemplos

- A: *We visited* Rome last year.
- N: *She didn't enjoy* the concert.
- Q: *Did you finish* the task?

Ejercicios

Completa con el **Pasado Simple**.

1. They _____ (arrive) late yesterday.
2. I _____ (not understand) the question.

3. _____ (you / see) the eclipse?
4. She _____ (buy) a new laptop.
5. We _____ (walk) along the river.
6. He _____ (not call) me last night.
7. Where _____ (they / go) on holiday?
8. The meeting _____ (start) at 9.
9. I _____ (lose) my wallet on the bus.
10. She _____ (study) French at school.

Pasado Continuo (Past Continuous)

Cuándo se usa

- Acciones en progreso en un momento del pasado: "At 8 pm, I was studying."
- Acción interrumpida por otra (Past Simple): "I was cooking when he arrived."
- Acciones paralelas en el pasado: "She was reading while I was writing."

Cómo se forma

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + was/were + verbo-ing.*

Negativa: *Sujeto + was/were + not + verbo-ing.*

Interrogativa: *Was/Were + sujeto + verbo-ing?*

Ejemplos

- A: *They were driving* home at 7.
- N: *I wasn't listening* to the radio.
- Q: *Were you waiting* for long?

Ejercicios

Completa con el **Pasado Continuo**.

1. I _____ (watch) TV when the phone _____ (ring).
2. They _____ (not sleep) at midnight.
3. _____ (she / drive) when it _____ (start) to rain?
4. We _____ (have) dinner while our friends _____ (talk).
5. He _____ (jog) in the park at 6 am.
6. The kids _____ (play) when the lights _____ (go) out.
7. I _____ (not pay) attention.
8. _____ (they / argue) about the price?
9. She _____ (read) while I _____ (cook).

10. What _____ (you / do) at 9 last night?

Pasado Perfecto (Past Perfect)

Cuándo se usa

- La acción más antigua de dos en el pasado: "He had left before I arrived."
- Causa o consecuencia en el pasado: "She was tired because she had worked all day."

Cómo se forma

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + had + participio pasado (V3).*

Negativa: *Sujeto + had not (hadn't) + V3.*

Interrogativa: *Had + sujeto + V3?*

Ejemplos

- A: *They had finished* the project before the deadline.
- N: *I hadn't seen* him before that day.
- Q: *Had she studied* enough for the exam?

Ejercicios

Completa con el **Pasado Perfecto**.

1. By 8 o'clock, we _____ (finish) dinner.
2. She was angry because he _____ (forget) her birthday.
3. _____ (you / ever / try) sushi before that night?
4. They _____ (leave) when I arrived.
5. He _____ (not read) the book before the class.
6. After we _____ (pack), we called a taxi.
7. I realized I _____ (lose) my keys.
8. _____ (she / finish) the report by Monday?
9. The match _____ (already / start) when we got there.
10. They were happy because they _____ (win).

Futuro con *will* (Futuro simple)

Cuándo se usa

- Decisiones espontáneas y ofrecimientos en el momento de hablar: *I'll help you.*
- Predicciones/opiniones sin evidencia fuerte: *It'll be fine.*
- Promesas/amenazas/hechos futuros: *I won't be late.*

Cómo se construye

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + will + verbo base.* (I/You/He/She/It/We/They *will go*)

Negativa: *Sujeto + will not (won't) + verbo base.* (She *won't agree*)

Interrogativa: *Will + sujeto + verbo base?* (*Will they come?*)

Mini-ejemplos

I'll call you later. / We won't forget. / Will you join us?

Be going to

Cuándo se usa

- Planes/intenciones decididas antes de hablar: *We're going to travel.*
- Predicciones con evidencia presente: *Look at those clouds! It's going to rain.*

Cómo se construye

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + am/is/are + going to + verbo base.*

Negativa: *Sujeto + am/is/are + not + going to + verbo base.*

Interrogativa: *Am/Is/Are + sujeto + going to + verbo base?*

Mini-ejemplos

I'm going to start a course. / She isn't going to buy it. / Are you going to apply?

Futuro Continuo (*will be + -ing*)

Cuándo se usa

- Acción en progreso en un momento específico del futuro: *At 8, I'll be studying.*
- Situaciones previstas o educadamente preguntar por planes: *Will you be using the car?*

Cómo se construye

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + will be + verbo-ing.*

Negativa: *Sujeto + will not (won't) be + verbo-ing.*

Interrogativa: *Will + sujeto + be + verbo-ing?*

Mini-ejemplos

They'll be working at noon. / I won't be waiting long. / Will she be driving?

Futuro Perfecto (*will have + V3*)

Cuándo se usa

- Acción **completada** antes de un punto del futuro: *By 2030, we will have reduced costs.*
- Inferencias sobre el pasado reciente desde el futuro: *He'll have left by now* (matiz UK).

Cómo se construye

Afirmativa: *Sujeto + will have + participio pasado (V3).*

Negativa: *Sujeto + will not (won't) have + V3.*

Interrogativa: *Will + sujeto + have + V3?*

Mini-ejemplos

She'll have finished by Monday. / We won't have arrived by 6. / Will you have read it?

Nota sobre “Futuro simple”

En gramática escolar, **futuro simple** suele referirse a *will + verbo base*. Aquí lo hemos unificado con la sección de *will*. Para planes/evidencia presente, usa *be going to*; para acción en progreso en el futuro, *futuro continuo*; para acción completada antes de un momento futuro, *futuro perfecto*.

Práctica global (30 oraciones, tiempos mezclados)

Instrucciones: Completa con la forma verbal correcta (**sin indicar el tiempo**). Algunas frases tienen **más de un hueco** y pueden requerir **tiempos distintos**.

1. Don't worry, I _____ (send) the file as soon as I get home.
2. Look at those clouds! It _____ (rain) soon.
3. By the time you arrive, we _____ (finish) dinner.
4. What _____ (you / do) at 9 p.m. tomorrow?
5. She usually _____ (take) the bus, but today she _____ (drive).
6. I _____ (not believe) you; _____ (you / talk) to him already?
7. When the phone _____ (ring), I _____ (cook) pasta.
8. We _____ (plan) a trip next month; we _____ (visit) Lisbon.
9. He _____ (work) here since 2023, so he _____ (know) the process well.
10. _____ (the train / leave) at 7 or at 7:30?
11. If you need help, I _____ (call) IT right now.
12. They _____ (already / start) the meeting when we arrived late.
13. At noon tomorrow, I _____ (meet) the new client.
14. She _____ (not go) to the party; she _____ (study) for her exam.
15. I think prices _____ (go) up next year.
16. Listen! The baby _____ (cry).
17. We _____ (not finish) the project yet, but we _____ (be) close.
18. _____ (you / ever / try) Korean food?
19. While I _____ (check) the report, the system _____ (crash).
20. By next Friday, the team _____ (complete) the first milestone.

21. She _____ (not usually / drink) coffee, but today she _____ (need) energy.
22. _____ (you / join) us later, or _____ (you / work) all evening?
23. Look at his suitcase—he _____ (travel) abroad next week.
24. When we got to the cinema, the film _____ (already / start).
25. This time tomorrow, we _____ (fly) over the Alps.
26. I promise I _____ (not tell) anyone.
27. The company _____ (grow) quickly these days.
28. Where _____ (you / be) at 6 p.m. yesterday?
29. As soon as she _____ (finish) this task, she _____ (send) the report.
30. By 2030, many cities _____ (have) electric buses only.

Reading: identificar tiempos verbales

Texto

Yesterday was hectic. At 7 a.m., I was leaving the house when I realized I had forgotten my keys. By the time I got back, my neighbor had already left for work. Later, while I was waiting for the bus, I got an email saying our team has finally reached the quarterly target. Tomorrow morning, I'll be meeting a new client, and by next week we will have closed the deal if everything goes as planned. Look at the sky now—it's going to rain, so I think I'll take a taxi.

Tareas

1. Subraya cada forma verbal y **anota el tiempo** (p.ej., Pasado continuo, Pasado perfecto, Presente perfecto, Futuro continuo, Futuro perfecto, Will, Be going to).
2. Explica brevemente el **porqué** de dos casos: (a) uso de *had forgotten* y (b) uso de *will have closed*.
3. Verdadero/Falso + corrige:
 - a) El email llegó antes de que esperara el bus.
 - b) La reunión con el cliente ocurrirá ahora mismo.
 - c) La predicción de lluvia se basa en evidencia presente.

Writing: historia usando varios tiempos

Instrucciones: Escribe entre 140–180 palabras contando una mini-historia real o inventada que incluya:

- **Pasado simple** (acciones principales) y **pasado continuo** (fondo).
- **Pasado perfecto** (acción anterior a otra en el pasado).
- **Presente perfecto** (resultado/experiencia reciente relevante).
- **Futuro:** al menos dos formas distintas (*will*, *be going to*, *futuro continuo* o *futuro perfecto*).

Checklist (márcalo al final):

- ☐ Usé 6+ tiempos distintos

- ☐ Conectores: *when, while, by the time, after, because, so*
- ☐ Ortografía y puntuación correctas
- ☐ Claridad y coherencia del relato

Modelo (muy breve, orientativo):

I was walking to the station when I realized I had left my pass at home. By the time I got back, the train had already departed. I've missed a few trains this month, so I'm going to set two alarms. Tomorrow at 8, I'll be waiting on the platform, and by next Friday I will have arrived on time every day. I think it'll be fine.