Cheat Sheet for English Verb Tenses

1. Present Simple

The **Present Simple** is used for habitual actions, routines, general facts, and permanent situations.

Structure

- Affirmative: Subject + Verb (base form, add *-s* for he, she, it)
- Negative: Subject + *do not / does not* + Verb (base form)
- Question: *Do / Does* + Subject + Verb (base form)

Examples

- Affirmative: *She plays soccer on weekends.*
- Negative: *She does not play soccer on weekends.*
- Question: *Does she play soccer on weekends?*

2. Past Simple

The **Past Simple** is used to describe actions or events that happened at a specific point in the past and are now finished.

Structure

- Affirmative: Subject + Verb in past (*-ed* for regular verbs, specific form for irregular verbs)
- Negative: Subject + *did not* + Verb (base form)
- Question: *Did* + Subject + Verb (base form)

Examples

- Affirmative: *They visited Paris last year.*
- Negative: *They did not visit Paris last year.*
- Question: *Did they visit Paris last year?*

3. Present Perfect

The **Present Perfect** is used to express past experiences without specifying when they occurred, actions that started in the past and continue in the present, or recent actions with relevance to the present.

Structure

- Affirmative: Subject + *have / has* + Past Participle
- Negative: Subject + *have not / has not* + Past Participle
- Question: *Have / Has* + Subject + Past Participle

Examples

- Affirmative: *I have finished my homework.*
- Negative: *I have not finished my homework.*
- Question: *Have you finished your homework?*

4. Present Continuous

The **Present Continuous** is used to describe actions happening at the moment of speaking or temporary situations.

Structure

- Affirmative: Subject + *am / is / are* + Verb-ing

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

- Question: *Am / Is / Are* + Subject + Verb-ing

Examples

- Affirmative: *She is studying English.*

- Negative: *She is not studying English.*

- Question: *Is she studying English?*

5. Past Continuous

The **Past Continuous** is used to describe actions that were in progress at a specific time in the past.

Structure

- Affirmative: Subject + *was / were* + Verb-ing

- Negative: Subject + *was not / were not* + Verb-ing

- Question: *Was / Were* + Subject + Verb-ing

Examples

- Affirmative: *They were playing soccer.*

- Negative: *They were not playing soccer.*

- Question: *Were they playing soccer?*

6. Future Simple

The **Future Simple** is used to talk about actions or events that will happen in the future.

Structure

- Affirmative: Subject + *will* + Verb (base form)

- Negative: Subject + *will not* + Verb (base form)

- Question: *Will* + Subject + Verb (base form)

Examples

- Affirmative: *They will travel tomorrow.*

- Negative: *They will not travel tomorrow.*

- Question: *Will they travel tomorrow?*

7. Future Continuous

The **Future Continuous** describes actions that will be in progress at a specific time in the future.

Structure

- Affirmative: Subject + *will be* + Verb-ing

- Negative: Subject + *will not be* + Verb-ing

- Question: *Will* + Subject + *be* + Verb-ing

Examples

- Affirmative: *She will be working at 5 PM.*

- Negative: *She will not be working at 5 PM.*

- Question: *Will she be working at 5 PM?*

8. Past Perfect

The **Past Perfect** is used to express an action that happened before another action in the past.

Structure

- Affirmative: Subject + *had* + Past Participle

- Negative: Subject + *had not* + Past Participle

- Question: *Had* + Subject + Past Participle

Examples

- Affirmative: *They had left before I arrived.*

- Negative: *They had not left before I arrived.*

- Question: *Had they left before I arrived?*

Using *had*, *have*, and *has*

- ***Have***: Used with **I, you, we, they** in the **Present Perfect** tense to show actions that started in the past and continue in the present, or to describe experiences without a specific time.

  - Example: *They have completed the project.*

- ***Has***: Used with **he, she, it** in the **Present Perfect** tense for similar uses as *have* but with third-person singular subjects.

  - Example: *She has visited many countries.*

- ***Had***: Used with all subjects in the **Past Perfect** tense to indicate an action that was completed before another past action.

  - Example: *He had left before they arrived.*