

# Tenses – Table List of All Verb Tenses in Modern English

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(based on textbooks like *Grammar of English*),  
<https://sites.google.com/view/ve4ernik/> &  
<https://github.com/sahwar/Bulogos/>

## 1. We use the **Present Simple**:

- (1) for permanent situations – *Giraffes live in Africa.*
- (2) for things that are generally true – *It rains in winter.*
- (3) for habits - *She smokes cigars.*
- (4) for things that happen regularly – *They play football on Monday nights.*
- (5) with verbs that describe current states (love, believe, own, etc.) – *She loves chocolate.*
- (6) in informal reports or instructions – *You go to the end and turn left.*
- (7) when we perform an action by speaking (e.g. when we promise/accept something) – *I promise to be more careful.*
- (8) to describe current situations as permanent – *I live in Plovdiv and work for a newspaper.*
- (9) + “be” / “have” for typical situations or states – *John is normally a quiet person. He has a gentle voice.*
- (10) FUTURE - for future events in a schedule or timetable – *The new course starts in January. The train leaves at 10 o'clock.*
- (11) FUTURE – for future actions in clauses after subordinating conjunctions (i.e. what, when) – *It won't matter what he says later. I'll see you when I get back.*

## 2. We use the **Present Continuous**:

- (1) for actions in progress – *I'm calling to let you know I'm coming.*
- (2) to talk about being in the middle of an activity – *It's snowing and the traffic is moving slowly.*
- (3) to describe current situations as temporary – *I'm living with my parents. I'm looking for a job.*
- (4) + “be” / “have” for temporary or special situations – *John is being wild tonight. He's having a graduation party.*
- (5) FUTURE - to talk about a future action we have planned or arranged – *I'm seeing the doctor on Friday. We're playing tomorrow.*

## 3. We use the **Present Perfect** (have + past participle):

- (1) to talk about or describe an action or situation started in the past which connects to the present – *I've worked here since 2008.*
- (2) when we mean ‘at any point up to now’ – *This is the best hamburger that I've ever tasted.*
- (3) with state verbs – *I have known Brian for about 6 years.*
- (4) to describe something as a series of separate actions – *He has called 4 times and he has asked for you each time.*
- (5) to describe an action as the present result of an earlier action – *We've made soup. That's why everyone is eating.*
- (6) when we think a situation has not ended – *I have lived in London for a year. She has known him since school. Has Jason been ill?*
- (7) with time expressions for a period up to now (e.g. lately, so far) – *Have you seen any good films lately?*
- (8) when we are talking about actions up to the present which might happen again – *He has been on TV. He has often had health problems.*

(9) in clauses beginning with “after”, “as soon as” and “when” for completed actions in the future – *After/As soon as/When he has made his copies, I will do mine.*

**4. We use the Present Perfect Continuous (have + been + -ing):**

(1) to talk about an activity in progress up to the present – *They’ve been repairing our street and it’s been causing a lot of traffic problems.*

(2) to ask about or describe actions which go on over a period of time up to the present – *Have you been waiting long? I’ve been sitting here for an hour.*

(3) to describe something as if it is a continuous action up to the present – *He’s been calling for you. It has been raining a lot recently.*

(4) to describe an action as a process going on from earlier up to the present – *We’ve been making soup. That’s why the kitchen is hot.*

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**5. We use the Past Simple:**

(1) when we think the situation ended – *I lived in London for a year. She knew him in school. Was Jason ill?* (compare with PrP (6)).

(2) with time expressions for a period that ended earlier (e.g. last night, yesterday, last year) – *I didn’t do the homework yesterday.* (compare with PrP (7)).

(3) for actions which we don’t think will happen again – *She had 3 children. She was a teacher in Bulgaria.* (compare with PrP (8)).

(4) in clauses beginning with “after”, “as soon as” and “when” for completed actions in the past – *As soon as he made his copies, I did mine.* (compare with PrP (9)).

(5) for completed actions in the past – *Edison invented the light bulb.*

(6) for past states – *That ring belonged to my mother. Life seemed easier then.*

(7) for 2 or more past actions in sequence, especially in narrative – *I tripped and landed on my knees.*

(8) “used to” (“didn’t use to” / “used not to”) = to talk about habits in the past or to make a stronger contrast with the present – *There used to be a shop there. He used to smoke a lot.*

(9) “would” = to talk about typical actions or activities during a period in the past – *In summer, we would take trips to my village. We would sometimes buy ice-cream.*

(10) when we want to describe a past activity as a series of separate actions (In many cases, the Past Simple and Past Continuous can be used interchangeably.) (compare with PaC (3)) – *Usually she went to the library about once a week and only studied occasionally for tests.*

(11) As a more direct way than Past Continuous.

**6. We use the Past Continuous (was/were + -ing):**

(1) to describe actions in progress at a specific time in the past – *What were you doing at 8:30 last night? During the 1890s, many people were leaving the south and moving to the north to look for work.*

(2) with some verbs (e.g. wonder, hope) to make a request more polite – *I was wondering when I could talk to you. We were hoping you might have a free moment.*

(3) to describe the past activity as if it was a continuous action (In many cases, the Past Simple and Past Continuous can be used interchangeably.) – *Before the final exam, however, she was going to the library and studying every single day.* (compare with PaS (10)).

(4) in sentences with *when*- and *while*-clauses to describe an activity in one clause that starts before an action in another clause (the 2<sup>nd</sup> action is in the Past Simple) – *While I was driving, I fell asleep.*

(5) like (4), but the activity that starts later may interrupt the first activity – *When I was running, I slipped and fell.*

(6) Used before verbs of reporting (say, etc.) to provide background information on another past action/activity.

**7. We use the Past Perfect (had + past participle):**

- (1) when we are describing an action with the Past Simple and we want to refer to an action further in the past – *We went to his office, but he had left.*
- (2) for earlier events after clauses with reporting or thinking verbs in the past – *I thought we had won.*
- (3) with state verbs for events in progress before another event in the past – *I had known about that before you mentioned it.* (compare with PaPC (1)).
- (4) to describe an action as a result of another action before a past event – *We had made soup and so we offered him some when he came in.* (compare with PaPC (2)).

**8. We use the Past Perfect Continuous (had + been + -ing):**

- (1) for events in progress before another event in the past (state verbs are not used in this way – instead we use the Past Perfect (3)) – *I had been thinking about that before you mentioned it.*
- (2) to describe an action as a process going on before a past event – *We had been making soup so the kitchen was still hot when he came in.* (compare with PaP (4)).

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**9. Future Simple: will and shall:**

- (1) will - to give or ask for information about the future – *Christmas will be on a Friday. When will you leave?*
- (2) will - to talk about possible future actions when we make promises, requests or threats – *I won't tell anyone. Will you please go? Stop or I'll call the police!*
- (3) will - for a prediction based on past experience or knowledge – *As soon as the victorious Bulgarian football team lands at the airport, the fans will start celebrating.*
- (4) will – in predictive conditionals – *We'll do okay if the test isn't too difficult.*
- (5) will – for a decision made at that moment – *That's the phone ringing. ~ I'll get it!* (compare to “be going to” (3)).
- (6) **shall** (+ I/we) – to express determination, or in questions to make offers or suggestions – *We will forgive, but we shall never forget. Shall I make some tea?*

**10. We use be going to:**

- (1) for a prediction based on what we feel or think now – *Oh, no, I think I'm going to be sick. We've just heard that Anna is going to have a baby.*
- (2) would or **was/were going to** – when we describe a past prediction about the future – *When I was a teenager, I thought I was going to be a rock star and I would never have to work.*
- (3) for a decision already made – *I've decided I'm going to get a new laptop.*

**11. We use the Future Continuous (will + be + -ing):**

- (1) to talk about future actions in progress at a particular time – *Next week at this time, you will be lying on the beach and we'll all still be working here.*
- (2) as a way of expressing plans or intentions – *I'll be sending in my application tomorrow. Will you be using the car later or can I have it?*

**12. We use the Future Perfect (will + have + past participle):**

- (1) to say that something will be completed by a particular time – *By next summer I will have finished my degree. ; It's 6 already. Will John have left work already?*

### 13. We use the **Future Perfect Continuous** (will + have been + -ing)

(1) when we look ahead to a future time and imagine an action lasting from a point before that time up to that future time – *On the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month, I will have been living here for exactly 10 years.*

(download an older version of the above text without the  
2 extra sentences added to the above version for comprehensiveness:  
[http://www.mediafire.com/file/ulb2di2d992l4k7/Tenses\\_CS.doc/file](http://www.mediafire.com/file/ulb2di2d992l4k7/Tenses_CS.doc/file) )

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## THE SAME TABLE LIST OF VERB TENSES IN MODERN ENGLISH (SUMMARY WITH EXAMPLES)

excerpted from the book 'Английска граматика с упражнения (за всички системи на обучение)  
--- за ученици, кандидат-студенти, студенти и преподаватели'. Снежана Боянова и Лена  
Илиева. *English Grammar --- Millenium Edition*. ISBN: 954-9607-33-X. Издателство „Габеров“  
(Gaberoff). [gaberoff@yahoo.com](mailto:gaberoff@yahoo.com), p. 315 --- „Приложение 4: Таблица с глаголните времена в  
деятелен и страдателен залог“

### Приложение 4 – ТАБЛИЦА С ГЛАГОЛНИТЕ ВРЕМЕНА В ДЕЯТЕЛЕН И СТРАДАТЕЛЕН ЗАЛОГ

#### Деятелен залог

сегашно просто време	He <b>plans</b> their trips.
сегашно продължително време	He <b>is planning</b> their trip.
сегашно перфектно време	He <b>has planned</b> their trip.
сегашно перфектно продължително време	He <b>has been planning</b> their trip.
минало просто време	He <b>planned</b> their trip.
минало продължително време	He <b>was planning</b> their trip.
минало перфектно време	He <b>had planned</b> their trip.
минало перфектно продължително време	He <b>had been planning</b> their trip.
бъдеще просто време	He <b>will plan</b> their trip.
бъдеще продължително време	He <b>will be planning</b> their trip.
бъдеще перфектно време	He <b>will have planned</b> their trip.
бъдеще перфектно продължително време	He <b>will have been planning</b> their trip.
бъдеще просто [време] в миналото	He <b>would plan</b> their trip.
бъдеще продължително [време] в миналото	He <b>would be planning</b> their trip.
бъдеще перфектно [време] в миналото	He <b>would have planned</b> their trip.
бъдеще перфектно продължително [време] в миналото	He <b>would have been planning</b> their trip.

#### Страдателен залог

сегашно просто време	Their trip <b>is planned</b> .
сегашно продължително време	Their trip <b>is being planned</b> .
сегашно перфектно време	Their trip <b>has been planned</b> .
минало просто време	Their trip <b>was planned</b> .
минало продължително време	Their trip <b>was being planned</b> .
минало перфектно време	Their trip <b>had been planned</b> .
бъдеще просто време	Their trip <b>will be planned</b> .
бъдеще перфектно време	Their trip <b>will have been planned</b> .
бъдеще просто [време] в миналото	Their trip <b>would be planned</b> .
бъдеще перфектно [време] в миналото	Their trip <b>would have been planned</b> .

## Reported Speech (Direct and Indirect Speech)

<b>Пряка реч (Direct Speech)</b>	<b>Непряка реч (Reported Speech)</b>
Present Simple — I play.	-> Past Simple — I played.
Present Continuous — I am playing [the Game].	-> Past Continuous — I was playing.
Present Perfect — I have played.	-> Past Perfect — I had played.
Present Perfect Continuous — I have been playing.	-> Past Perfect Continuous — I had been playing.
Past Simple — I played.	-> Past Perfect — I had played.
Past Continuous — I was playing.	-> Past Perfect Continuous — I had been playing.
Past Perfect — I had played.	-> (без промяна / no change, i.e. the same)
Past Perfect Continuous — I had been playing.	-> (без промяна / no change, i.e. the same)
Future Simple — I will/shall play.	-> Future Simple in the Past — I would/should play.
Future Continuous — I will/shall be playing.	-> Future Continuous in the Past — I would/should be playing.
Future Perfect — I will/shall have played.	-> Future Perfect in the Past — I would/should have played.
Future Perfect Continuous — I will/shall have been playing.	-> Future Perfect Continuous in the Past — I would/should have been playing.
<b>FORMS OF THE VERB ‘TO BE (I AM)’ (TO BE&amp;NOT TO BE = YinYang existence) IN DIRECT SPEECH &amp; THEIR CORRESPONDENCE IN INDIRECT SPEECH</b>	
am/is/are was/were have/has had do/does did can must could had to have to should might may ought to will	was/were had been had had had did had done could had to (без промяна / no change, i.e. the same) (без промяна / no change, i.e. the same) had to (без промяна / no change, i.e. the same) (без промяна / no change, i.e. the same) (без промяна / no change, i.e. the same) (без промяна / no change, i.e. the same) would

Плюс други раздели от същата книга:

+ (p.) ...

+ (p.) стр. 162: Модални глаголи (Modal Verbs)

- + (p.) стр. 180: Страдателен залог (Passive Voice vs. Active Voice)
- + (p.) стр. 192: **Пряка и непряка реч (Direct and Indirect Speech)**
- + (p.) стр. 204: *Условни изречения (Conditional Sentences): ..., if, will/would (have); can/could; may/might; may/can; must; should, had better; (Zero Conditional), First Conditional, Second Conditional, Third Conditional, Mixed Conditional*
- + (p.) стр. 215: **Нелични глаголни форми (Nonfinite Verb Forms: The Infinitive; -ING Forms; Past Participle; ... ; )**
- + и т.н.

used to = повтаряемост в миналото, свързано с настоящето

would = циклична повтаряемост, несвързана с настоящето

Past Simple

Past Continuous

...

A VERY GOOD ENGLISH<->BULGARIAN TRANSLATION IS ABOUT MASTERFUL  
SORTA-LIBERAL YET-SORTA-EXACT INTERPRETATION-TRANSLATION **NOT**  
LITERAL TRANSLATION *MOST OF THE TIME...*