Tenses – Table List of All Verb Tenses in Modern English

by <http://uni-plovdiv.bg>

(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 particple):  
(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 soons 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.*---  
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 2nd 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 it.* (compare with PaP (4)).---  
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 10th 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> )

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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’. Снежена 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  сегашно продължително време  сегашно перфектно време  сегашно перфектно продължително време  минало просто време  минало продължително време  минало перфектно време  минало перфектно продължително време  бъдеще просто време  бъдеще продължително време  бъдеще перфектно време  бъдеще перфектно продължително време  бъдеще просто [време] в миналото  бъдеще продължително [време] в миналото  бъдеще перфектно [време] в миналото  бъдеще перфектно продължително [време] в миналото | He **plans** their trips.  He **is planning** their trip.  He **has planned** their trip.  He **has been planning** their trip.  He **planned** their trip.  He **was planning** their trip.  He **had planned** their trip.  He **had been planning** their trip.  He **will plan** their trip.  He **will be planning** their trip.  He **will have planned** their trip.  He **will have been planning** their trip.  He **would plan** their trip.  He **would be planning** their trip.  He **would have planned** their trip.  He **would have been planning** their trip. |

**Страдателен залог**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| сегашно просто време  сегашно продължително време  сегашно перфектно време  минало просто време  минало продължително време  минало перфектно време  бъдеще просто време  бъдеще перфектно време  бъдеще просто [време] в миналото  бъдеще перфектно [време] в миналото | Their trip **is planned**.  Their trip ***is being* planned**.  Their trip **has been planned**.  Their trip **was planned**.  Their trip ***was being* planned**.  Their trip **had been planned**.  Their trip **will be planned**.  Their trip ***will have been* planned**.  Their trip ***would be* planned**.  Their trip ***would have been* planned**. |

**Reported Speech (Direct and Indirect Speech)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Пряка реч (Direct Speech)** | **Непряка реч (Reported Speech)** |
| 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. |
| ***FORMS OF THE VERB ‘TO BE (I AM)’ (TO BE&NOT TO BE = YinYang existence)***  ***IN DIRECT SPEECH &***  ***THEIR CORRESPONDENCE IN INDIRECT SPEECH*** | |
| 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***. . .**