



English tenses

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Tense	Signal words	Use	Form	Examples affirmative	Examples negative	Examples interrogative
Simple Present	<p>every day</p> <p>sometimes</p> <p>always</p> <p>often</p> <p>usually</p> <p>seldom</p> <p>never</p> <p>first ... then</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> something happens repeatedly how often something happens one action follows another things in general with verbs like (<i>to love, to hate, to think, etc.</i>) future meaning: timetables, programmes 	<p>infinitive</p> <p>he/she/it: infinitive + s</p>	<p>I work.</p> <p>He works.</p> <p>I go.</p> <p>He goes.</p>	<p>I don't work.</p> <p>He doesn't work.</p> <p>I don't go.</p> <p>He doesn't go.</p>	<p>Do I work?</p> <p>Does he work?</p> <p>Do I go?</p> <p>Does he go?</p>
Present Progressive	<p>now</p> <p>at the moment</p> <p>Look!</p> <p>Listen!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> something is happening at the same time of speaking or around it future meaning: when you have already decided and arranged to do it (a fixed plan, date) 	<p>be (am/are/is) + infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I'm working.</p> <p>He's working.</p> <p>I'm going.</p> <p>He's going.</p>	<p>I'm not working.</p> <p>He isn't working.</p> <p>I'm not going.</p> <p>He isn't going.</p>	<p>Am I working?</p> <p>Is he working?</p> <p>Am I going?</p> <p>Is he going?</p>
Simple Past	<p>last ...</p> <p>... ago</p> <p>in 1990</p> <p>yesterday</p>	<p>action took place in the past, mostly connected with an expression of time (no connection to the present)</p>	<p>regular: infinitive + ed</p> <p>irregular: (2nd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I worked.</p> <p>He worked.</p> <p>I went.</p> <p>He went.</p>	<p>I didn't work.</p> <p>He didn't work.</p> <p>I didn't go.</p> <p>He didn't go.</p>	<p>Did I work?</p> <p>Did he work?</p> <p>Did I go?</p> <p>Did he go?</p>

Past Progressive	while	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an action happened in the middle of another action someone was doing sth. at a certain time (in the past) - you don't know whether it was finished or not 	was/were + infinitive + ing	<p>I was working.</p> <p>He was working.</p> <p>I was going.</p> <p>He was going.</p>	<p>I wasn't working.</p> <p>He wasn't working.</p> <p>I wasn't going.</p> <p>He wasn't going.</p>	<p>Was I working?</p> <p>Was he working?</p> <p>Was I going?</p> <p>Was he going?</p>
Simple Present Perfect	just yet never ever already so far, up to now, since for recently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you say that sth. has happened or is finished in the past and it has a connection to the present action started in the past and continues up to the present 	have/has + past participle* *(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	<p>I have worked.</p> <p>He has worked.</p> <p>I have gone.</p> <p>He has gone.</p>	<p>I haven't worked.</p> <p>He hasn't worked.</p> <p>I haven't gone.</p> <p>He hasn't gone.</p>	<p>Have I worked?</p> <p>Has he worked?</p> <p>Have I gone?</p> <p>Has he gone?</p>
Present Perfect Progressive	all day the whole day how long since for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> action began in the past and has just stopped how long the action has been happening <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	have/has + been + infinitive + ing	<p>I have been working.</p> <p>He has been working.</p> <p>I have been going.</p> <p>He has been going.</p>	<p>I haven't been working.</p> <p>He hasn't been working.</p> <p>I haven't been going.</p> <p>He hasn't been going.</p>	<p>Have I been working?</p> <p>Has he been working?</p> <p>Have I been going?</p> <p>Has he been going?</p>

Simple Past Perfect	already just never	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mostly when two actions in a story are related to each other: the action which had already happened is put into <i>Past Perfect</i>, the other action into <i>Simple Past</i> the past of the <i>Present Perfect</i> 	had + past participle* *(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I had worked . He had worked . I had gone . He had gone .	I hadn't worked . He hadn't worked . I hadn't gone . He hadn't gone .	Had I worked? Had he worked? Had I gone? Had he gone?
Past Perfect Progressive	how long since for	how long something had been happening before something else happened	had + been + infinitive + ing	I had been working . He had been working . I had been going . He had been going .	I hadn't been working . He hadn't been working . I hadn't been going . He hadn't been going .	Had I been working? Had he been working? Had I been going? Had he been going?
will - future		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> predictions about the future (you think that sth will happen) you decide to do sth. spontaneously at the time of speaking main clause in type I of the Conditional sentences 	will + infinitive	I'll work . He'll work . I'll go . He'll go .	I won't work . He won't work . I won't go . He won't go .	Will I work? Will he work? Will I go? Will he go?
going to - future		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when you have already decided to do sth. in the future what you think what will happen 	be (am/are/is) + going to + infinitive	I'm going to work . He's going to work . I'm going to go . He's going to go .	I'm not going to work . He's not going to work . I'm not going to go . He's not going to go .	Am I going to work? Is he going to work? Am I going to go? Is he going to go?

Future Progressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An action will be in progress at a certain time in the future. This action has begun before the certain time. Something happens because it normally happens. 	will + be + infinitive + ing	I'll be working. He'll be working. I'll be going. He'll be going.	I won't be working. He won't be working. I won't be going. He won't be going.	Will I be working? Will he be working? Will I be going? Will he be going?
Future Perfect Simple	sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future	will + have + past participle* *(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I'll have worked. He'll have worked. I'll have gone. He'll have gone.	I won't have worked. He won't have worked. I won't have gone. He won't have gone.	Will I have worked? Will he have worked? Will I have gone? Will he have gone?
Future Perfect Progressive	sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future emphasis: length of time of an action	will + have + been + infinitive + ing	I'll have been working. He'll have been working. I'll have been going. He'll have been going.	I won't have been working. He won't have been working. I won't have been going. He won't have been going.	Will I have been working? Will he have been working? Will I have been going? Will he have been going?
Conditional Simple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sth. that might happen main clause in type II of the Conditional sentences 	would + infinitive	I would work. He would work. I would go. He would go.	I wouldn't work. He wouldn't work. I wouldn't go. He wouldn't go.	Would I work? Would he work? Would I go? Would he go?

Conditional Progressive		sth. that might happen emphasis: length of time of an action	would + be + infinitive + ing	I would be working. He would be working. I would be going. He would be going.	I wouldn't be working. He wouldn't be working. I wouldn't be going. He wouldn't be going.	Would I be working? Would he be working? Would I be going? Would he be going?
Conditional Perfect		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sth. that might have happened in the past main clause in type III of the Conditional sentences 	would + have + past participle* *(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I would have worked. He would have worked. I would have gone. He would have gone.	I wouldn't have worked. He wouldn't have worked. I wouldn't have gone. He wouldn't have gone.	Would I have worked? Would he have worked? Would I have gone? Would he have gone?
Conditional Perfect Progressive		sth. that might have happened in the past emphasis: length of time of an action	would + have + been + infinitive + ing	I would have been working. He would have been working. I would have been going. He would have been going.	I wouldn't have been working. He wouldn't have been working. I wouldn't have been going. He wouldn't have been going.	Would I have been working? Would he have been working? Would I have been going? Would he have been going?

We sometimes use **Continuous** instead of **Progressive**. Some signal words can be found in more tenses. We did not list signal words in the future. Always remember what action is described.

Used colours:

blue → infinitive

dark green → auxiliary

orange → ending

grey → irregular verbs in the Simple Past

purple → past participle

light green → signal word

red → negation