

Table of Tenses

| Present simple | Present continuous |
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| 1. Habitual (repeated) actions: <i>I play golf every week.</i> | 1. Actions happening at the moment of speaking: <i>I am playing golf now.</i> |
| 2. Permanent truths: <i>Lions live in Africa.</i> | 2. Temporary activities happening about this time: <i>We are staying at the hotel this week.</i> |
| 3. Planned future actions (in timetables): <i>The bus departs at 10.</i> | 3. Definite arrangements in the near future: <i>He is leaving for Paris tonight.</i> |
| Past simple | Past continuous |
| 1. Habitual (repeated) actions in the past: <i>We worked in Leeds last year.</i> | 1. Actions that started before a point of time in the past and continued after it: <i>We were working at 6 o'clock.</i> |
| 2. Actions completed in the past at a definite time: <i>I had a shower in the morning.</i> | 2. Actions that started before another (shorter) action in the past and continued after it: <i>I was having a shower when the phone rang.</i> |
| 3. Actions that follow one after the other: <i>Bill came home. He took off his coat and sat down.</i> | 3. Descriptions of past situations: <i>Bill was smiling. He was thinking about his puppy.</i> |
| Future simple | Future continuous |
| 1. General intentions: <i>I will move to Britain sooner or later.</i> | 1. Actions happening at a point of time in the future: <i>I will be driving to work at 6 o'clock.</i> |
| 2. Predictions or opinions of the speaker: <i>I hope he will do it for you.</i> | 2. Actions that will happen in the normal course of events (routine activities): <i>Everyone will be using smartphones in future.</i> |
| 3. Decisions made at the moment of speaking: <i>The bag is too heavy. I will help you.</i> | |
| Present perfect simple | Present perfect continuous |
| 1. Actions that started in the past and still continue: <i>We have lived here since last year.</i> | 1. Actions that began in the past, continue up to now and will probably continue in the future: <i>It has been raining for two days.</i> |
| 2. Past experience with a present result: <i>I have already seen the film.</i> | 2. Actions that began in the past, continued up to now and have only just finished: <i>I'm tired because I have been working so hard.</i> |
| 3. Past actions with a present result: <i>He has bought a house.</i> | |
| Past perfect simple | Past perfect continuous |
| 1. Actions completed before another action: <i>When I met Mary, she had already moved to Madrid.</i> | 1. Actions that began before a point of time in the past and were still continuing at that time: <i>At 9 o'clock I had been waiting for two hours.</i> |
| 2. Actions completed before a point of time: <i>In 2015 I had won the race three times.</i> | 2. Actions that began before a point of time, continued up to that time or stopped just before it: <i>Josh sat down. He had been cutting grass all day.</i> |
| Future perfect simple | Future perfect continuous |
| 1. Actions that will be completed at a certain time in the future: <i>When I return home, I will have been away for a year.</i> | 1. Actions that will continue until a point of time and will continue after it: <i>In June we will have been travelling for five months.</i> |
| 2. Actions that will be completed before a certain time in the future: <i>She will have written her book by the end of this year.</i> | 2. Actions that will continue until a point of time and will finish at that time: <i>I will leave my office at 6 o'clock. By then I will have been working on my computer all day.</i> |