

Table of Tenses

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Present simple	Present continuous
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 around the world 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>