

Tenses in English

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>

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<p>Past Progressive</p>	<p>while</p>	<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 	<p>was/were + infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I was working. He was working. I was going. He was going.</p>	<p>I wasn't working. He wasn't working. I wasn't going. He wasn't going.</p>	<p>Was I working? Was he working? Was I going? Was he going?</p>
<p>Simple Present Perfect</p>	<p>just yet never ever already so far, up to now, since for recently</p>	<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 	<p>have/has + past participle*</p> <p>*(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I have worked. He has worked. I have gone. He has gone.</p>	<p>I haven't worked. He hasn't worked. I haven't gone. He hasn't gone.</p>	<p>Have I worked? Has he worked? Have I gone? Has he gone?</p>
<p>Present Perfect Progressive</p>	<p>all day the whole day how long since for</p>	<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>	<p>have/has + been + infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I have been working. He has been working. I have been going. He has been going.</p>	<p>I haven't been working. He hasn't been working. I haven't been going. He hasn't been going.</p>	<p>Have I been working? Has he been working? Have I been going? Has he been going?</p>

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<p>Simple Past Perfect</p>	<p>already just never</p>	<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> 	<p>had + past participle*</p> <p>*(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I had worked.</p> <p>He had worked.</p> <p>I had gone.</p> <p>He had gone.</p>	<p>I hadn't worked.</p> <p>He hadn't worked.</p> <p>I hadn't gone.</p> <p>He hadn't gone.</p>	<p>Had I worked?</p> <p>Had he worked?</p> <p>Had I gone?</p> <p>Had he gone?</p>
<p>Past Perfect Progressive</p>	<p>how long since for</p>	<p>how long something had been happening before something else happened</p>	<p>had + been + infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I had been working.</p> <p>He had been working.</p> <p>I had been going.</p> <p>He had been going.</p>	<p>I hadn't been working.</p> <p>He hadn't been working.</p> <p>I hadn't been going.</p> <p>He hadn't been going.</p>	<p>Had I been working?</p> <p>Had he been working?</p> <p>Had I been going?</p> <p>Had he been going?</p>
<p>will - future</p>		<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 	<p>will + infinitive</p>	<p>I'll work.</p> <p>He'll work.</p> <p>I'll go.</p> <p>He'll go.</p>	<p>I won't work.</p> <p>He won't work.</p> <p>I won't go.</p> <p>He won't go.</p>	<p>Will I work?</p> <p>Will he work?</p> <p>Will I go?</p> <p>Will he go?</p>
<p>going to - future</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> when you have already decided to do sth. in the future what you think what will happen 	<p>be (am/are/is) + going to + infinitive</p>	<p>I'm going to work.</p> <p>He's going to work.</p> <p>I'm going to go.</p> <p>He's going to go.</p>	<p>I'm not going to work.</p> <p>He's not going to work.</p> <p>I'm not going to go.</p> <p>He's not going to go.</p>	<p>Am I going to work?</p> <p>Is he going to work?</p> <p>Am I going to go?</p> <p>Is he going to go?</p>

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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 ?

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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 have not listed 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

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