



# Importance of “Timeline charts” in the Cognitive Understanding of Tenses for EFL Students

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**Tense** is used to refer to a point in time. This point is either before the moment of speaking, at the same time as the moment of speaking or after the moment of speaking,

English has **present** and **past** tenses

**Aspect** refers to the "fabric of time", that is single block of time, a continuous flow of time or a repetitive occurrence. There are three ways to express aspect in English, namely:

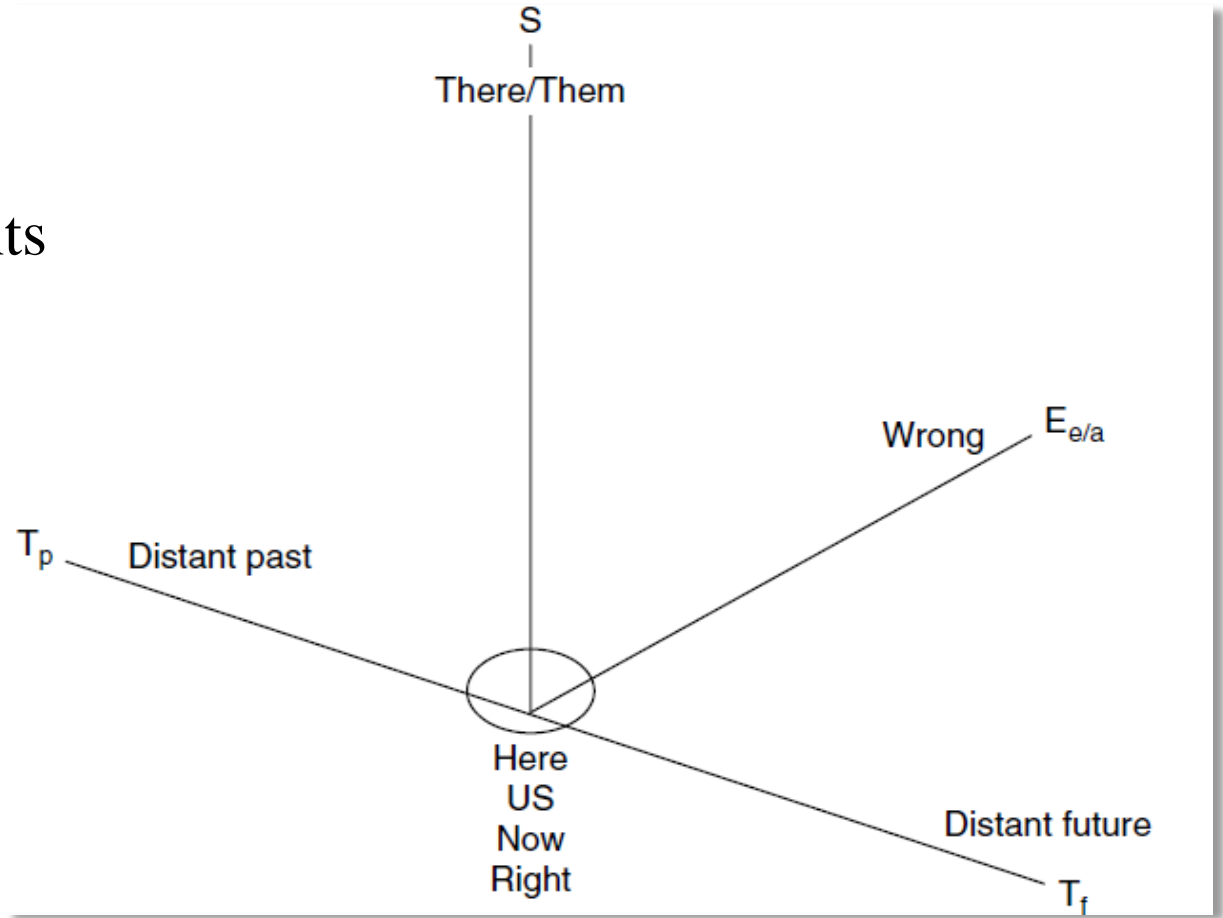
**simple, progressive** and **perfect**. Simple and progressive cannot occur simultaneously, but perfect can occur with either simple or progressive.

## Discourse Space Theory (DST)

- **Discourse Space Theory** is the geometric model developed by Chilton (2004)
- A deictically motivated model of conceptualisation.
- It claims that while speaking or listening, one opens up a mental space of “three intersecting axes” to conceptually represent the described world, one of them is **the temporal axis**

# Discourse Space: Basic Model (Hart, 2014, p. 165)

- The speaker/hearer's point of view represents the deictic center
- Personal deixis → us/them
- Temporal deixis → now/then
- Place deixis → here/ there

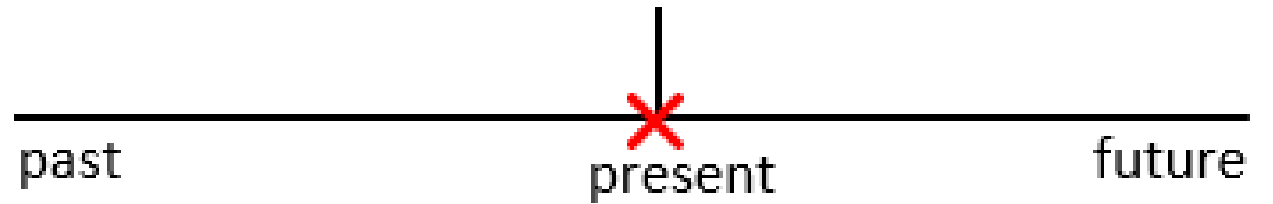


- The temporal axis signifies a timeline in which the middle is **now** and refers to **the present situation**
- The far right end refers to **the distant past**
- The far left end refers to **the distant future**

# Present Simple

Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius

يغلي الماء عند درجة 100 سيليزية



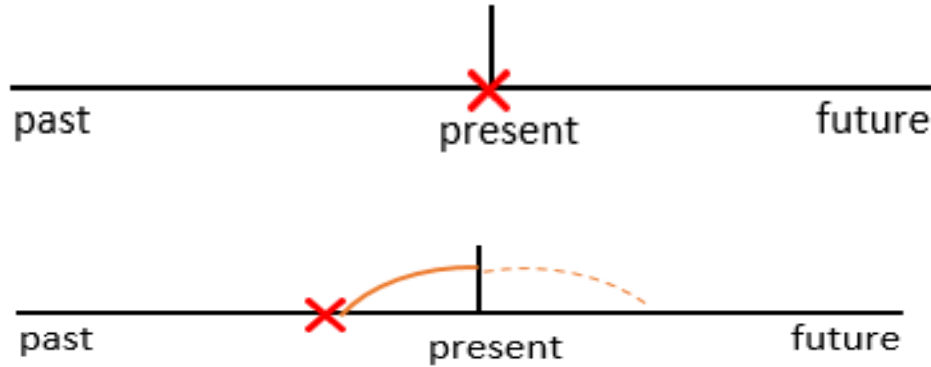
# Present Continuous

The water is boiling. Be careful

انتبه! الماء يغلي



# The present



- 1- يلعب الأطفال دائما في الحديقة
- 2- يلعب الأطفال الان في الحديقة

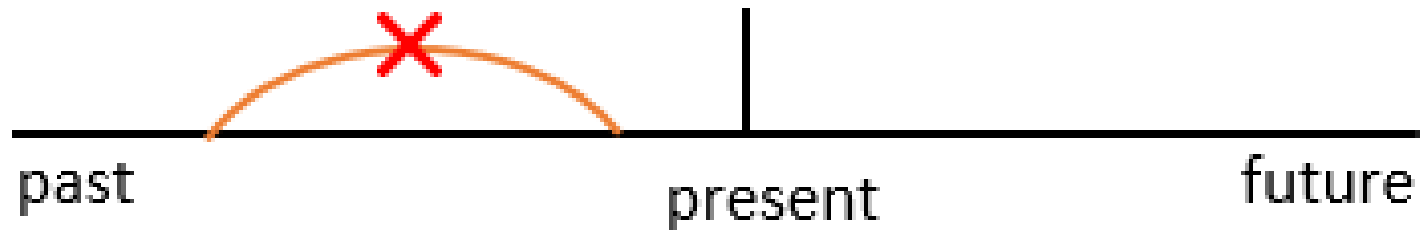
- These two examples may not cause a serious problem in translation as they can be
- rendered as:
- Example
- 1a. 'The children always play in the garden.'
- 2a. 'The children are playing in the garden now.'



# Past Continuous

كنت اعيش في هونك كونك في مثل هذا الوقت من السنة الماضية

This time last year I was living in Hong Kong



# Present Perfect

دايف: هل تسافرين كثيرا ؟  
جاين: نعم ، قد زرت العديد من الاماكن

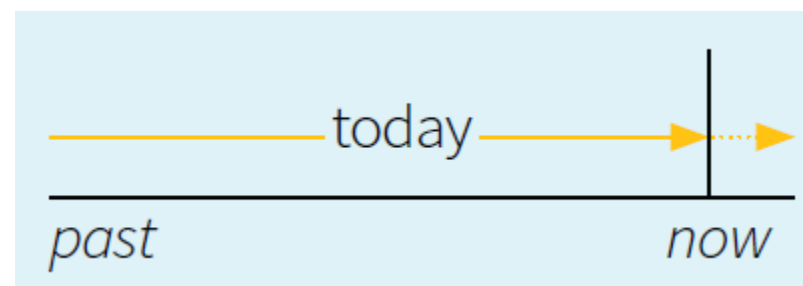
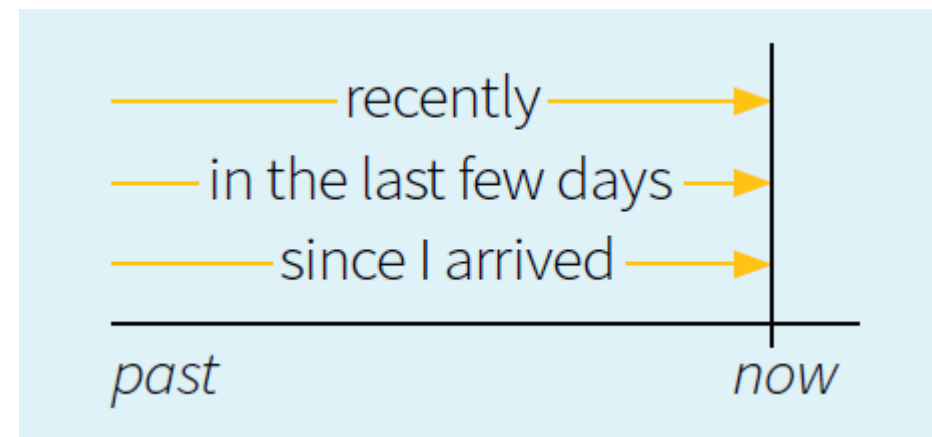
DAVE: **Have** you **travelled** a lot, Jane?

JANE: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.

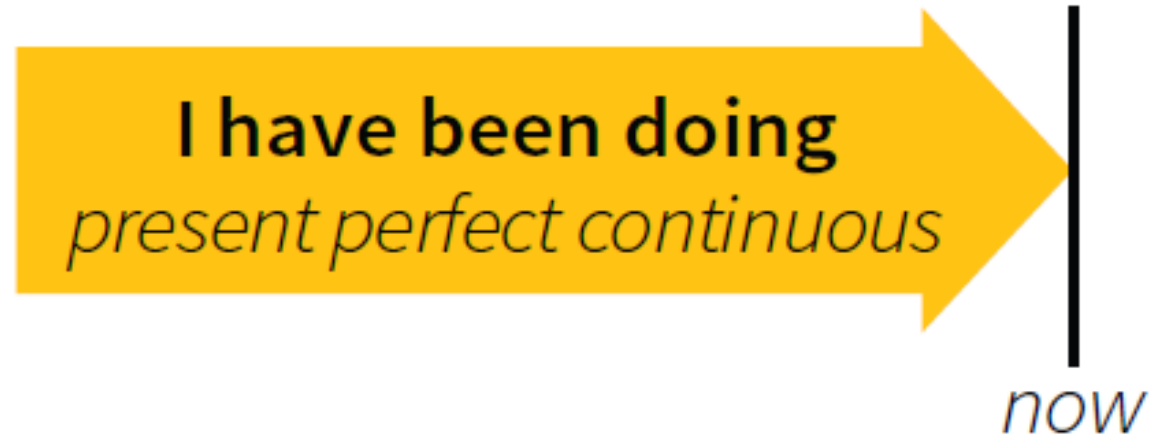


# Present Perfect

- Have you heard anything from Ben recently?
- I've drunk four cups of coffee today.



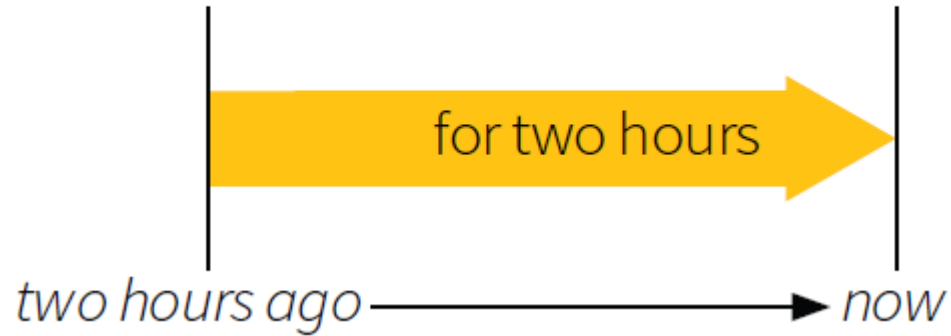
# Present Perfect Continuous



- ☐ I've **been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.

# Present Perfect

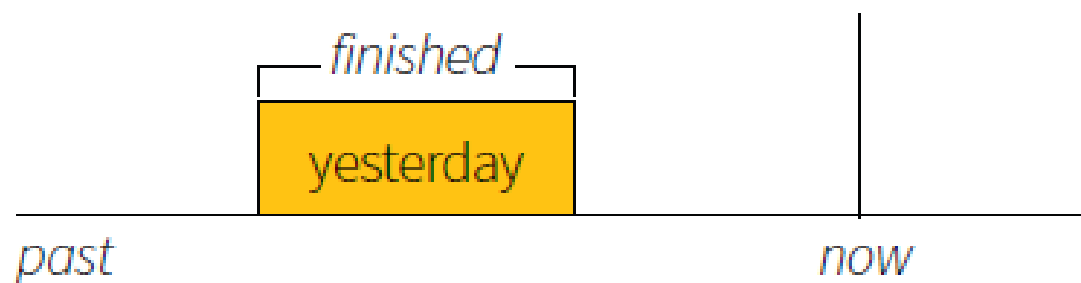
- We've been waiting **for two hours**.



- We've been waiting **since 8 o'clock**.

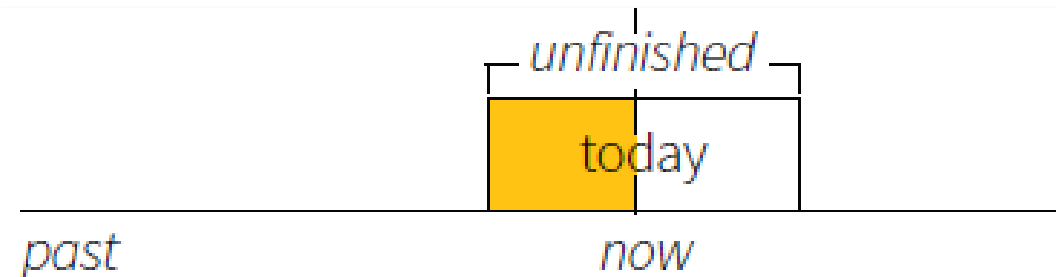


## Past simple



☐ It **didn't** rain last week.

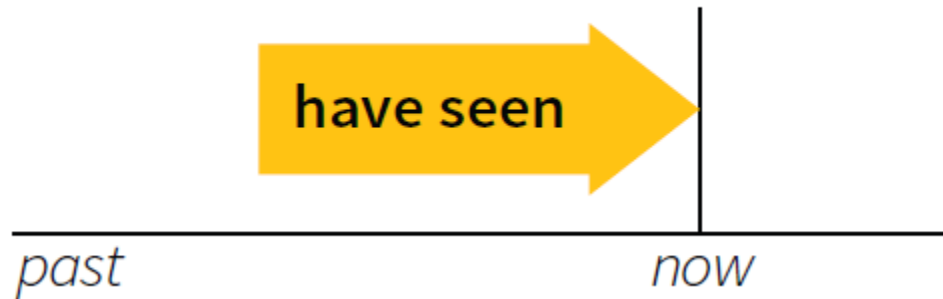
## Present perfect



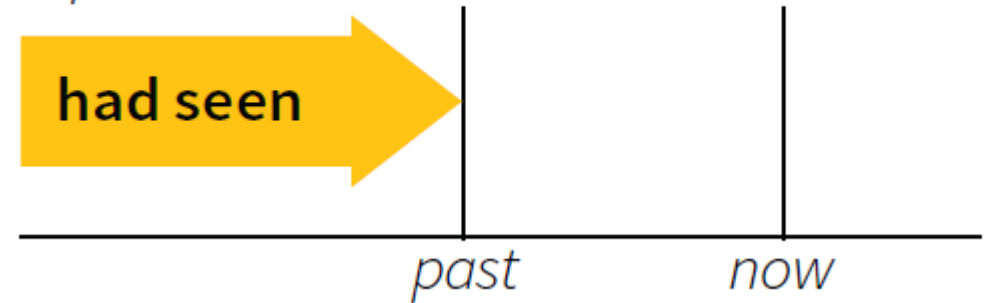
☐ It **hasn't** rained this week.

- Kate **had just got** home when I phoned.
- Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned.

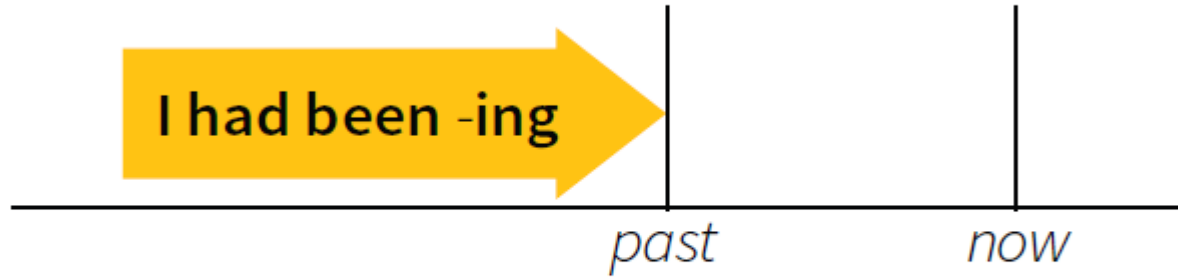
*Present perfect*



*Past perfect*



*Past perfect continuous*

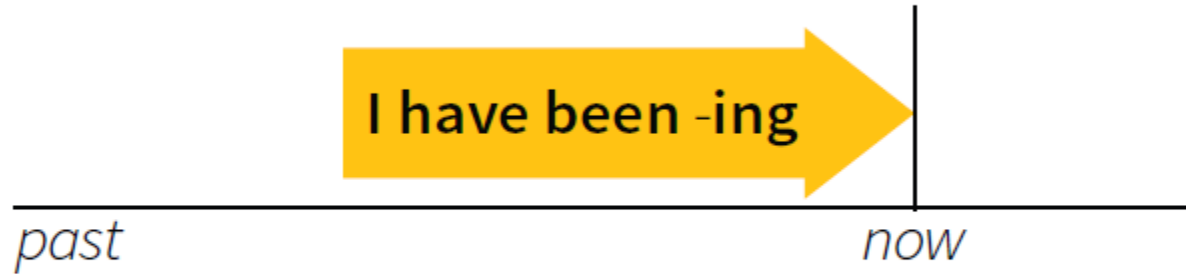


- ☐ At last the bus came. **I'd been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before the bus came*)

أخيراً، وصلت الحافلة ، بعد انتظار دام لعشرين دقيقة

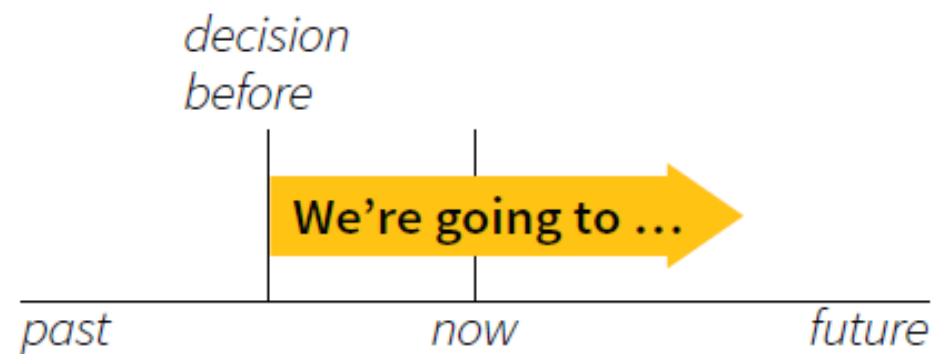
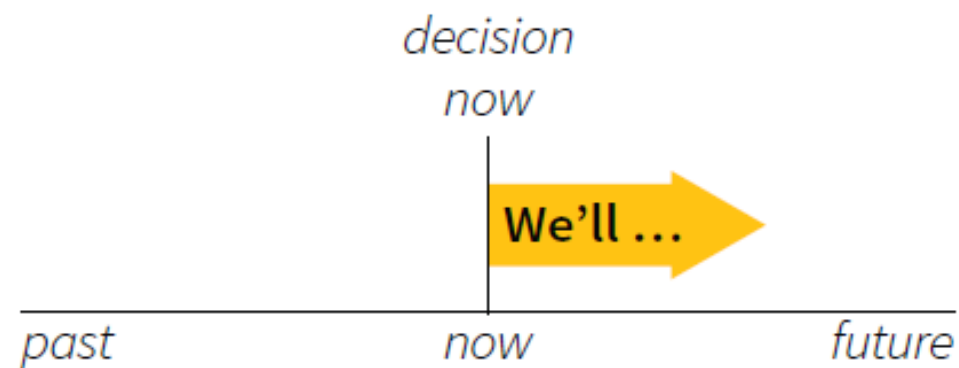


## Present perfect continuous



- ☐ I hope the bus comes soon. I've **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before now*)

أرجو أن تصل الحافلة قريباً، أنا انتظر منذ عشرين دقيقة

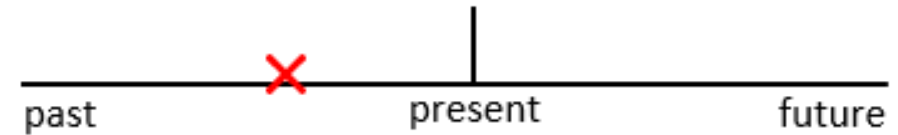


# Arabic Tense as a Problem in Translation for students of translation

ذهب احمد الى المدرسة

The sentence can be translated into English based on the context (each has different aspect)

1- Ahmed **went** to school  
(a past action that is finished)



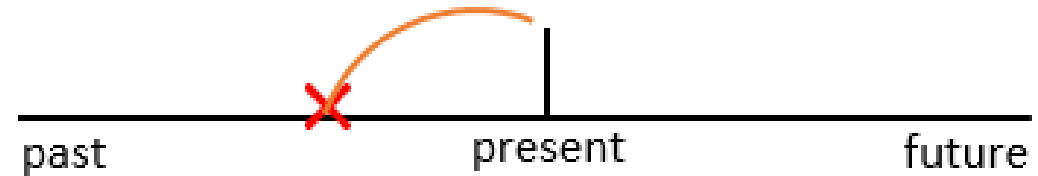
2- Ahmed **had gone** to school  
( a past action that happened prior to another past action)



3- Ahmad **had been** to school

كان احمد في المدرسة

(the action of going to school and coming back,  
(×) refers the both going and coming back)



4- Ahmad **has gone** to school

ذهب احمد الى المدرسة

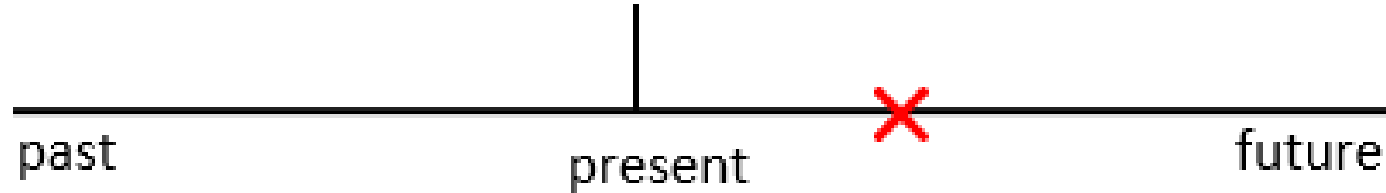
(recent action of going to school, (×) refers to going only)

- Rendering the English past tense into Arabic does not cause any problems, as it has only one available option, for instance, 3 and 4 can be:

# Future simple

I will open the door

سوف أفتح الباب  
سأفتح الباب



- Both these translations sound acceptable, though the second one sounds more natural and idiomatic.

# Future continuous

I will be eating my lunch by 8.'

سوف أكون أتناول غدائي في الساعة ال 8



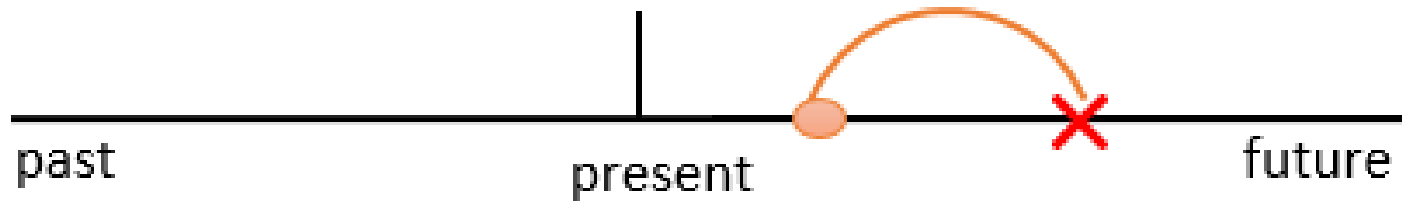
- As can be seen, the future continuous was translated similarly to the future simple, with the exception of inserting the past form of the copula between the word expressing the future (i.e. سوف) and the aorist tense.

# Future perfect

The future perfect is used in English to express an action that will be completed at a specific point in the future:

By next Monday, **I will have finished** writing this book

في الاثنين القادم سأكون قد انتهيت من كتابة هذا الكتاب

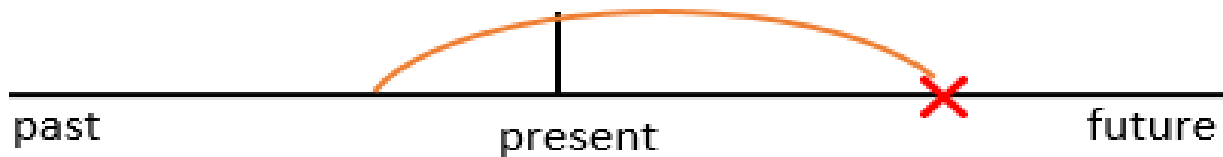


# Future perfect progressive

- Future perfect progressive is used to refer to the duration of an event at a specific time in the future:

By the time the season ends, I will have been playing for fifteen months without a break

بنهاية الفصل ساكون العب لمدة 15 شهرا دون توقف



- English sentence was rendered in the same way that the future perfect was rendered. This is because Arabic does not differentiate between future perfect and future perfect progressive.



## References

- Chilton, P. (2004). *Analysing political discourse: Theory and practice*. Routledge.
- Hart, C. (2014). *Discourse, grammar and ideology: Functional and cognitive perspectives*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Murphy, R. (2019). *English grammar in use*. Cambridge University press.
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