

-TENSES	USES	EXAMPLE
Present Simple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The train <u>leaves</u> every morning at 8 am.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is also used to make generalizations about people or things 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cats <u>like</u> milk.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes speakers use the Simple Present to express the idea that an action is happening or is not happening now. This can only be done with Non-continuous Verbs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He <u>needs</u> help right now.
Present Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Present Continuous with Continuous Verbs to express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You <u>are learning</u> English now.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes we use the Present Continuous to say that we are in the process of doing a longer action which is in progress; however, we might not be doing it at this exact second. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>am studying</u> to become a doctor.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes, speakers use the Present Continuous to indicate that something will or will not happen in the near future. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>am meeting</u> some friends after work.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Present Continuous with words such as "always" or "constantly" expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happens. Notice that the meaning is like Simple Present but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words "always" or "constantly" between "be" and "verb+ing." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He <u>is constantly talking</u>. I wish he would shut up.
Present Perfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use the Present Perfect to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important. You <u>CANNOT</u> use the Present Perfect with time expressions such as "yesterday," "one year ago," "last week," "when I was a child," "when I lived in Japan," "at that moment," "that day" or "one day." We <u>CAN</u> use the Present Perfect with expressions like "ever," "never," "once," "many times," "several times," "before," "so far," "already" and "yet." (Experience) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>have seen</u> that movie twenty times.

BASIC USES OF THE ENGLISH TENSES

- We use the Present Perfect to show that something started in the past and has continued up until now. "For five minutes," "for two weeks" and "since Tuesday" are all durations which can be used with the Present Perfect.
- I have had a cold for two weeks.

Present Perfect Cont. •

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Past Simple

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until now. "For five minutes", "f Use the Past Continuous to indicate

weeks", and "since Tuesday" was

durations which can be used w usually an

Present Perfect Continuous. Y ember this

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NOTE: The Present Perfect C

emphasizes the action itself: d

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interrupted. The interruption is
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In USE 1, described above, the Past
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the Simple Past. However, you
use a specific time as an interr
COMPARE:

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Continuous WITHOUT a durat In the Simple Past a specific time is
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finished.

"since Tuesday". Without the d

the this tense gives a more ge In the Past Continuous a specific time
meaning of "lately". We often u

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words "lately" or "recently" in t

sentence to strengthen this m

When you use the Past Continuous

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idea that an action started and

a specific time in the past. So In English we often use a series of

Parallel Actions to describe at
the past.

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specific time, but they do have

specific time in mind.

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series of completed actions in

These actions happen 1st, 2n

- They have been talking for the last

hour.

COMPARE:

- I've been painting the garden fence

all morning. (my hands are still dirty & it's not clear whether I've finished the job or not)

- I've painted the garden fence. (the job is definitely completed)

- Recently, I have been feeling really

tired.

dinner.

(I started earlier and at 6 p.m. I was in the process of eating dinner.)

- I was studying while he was making dinner.

- When I walked into the office, several

people were busily typing, some were talking on the phones, the boss was yelling directions, and customers were waiting to be helped.

- I saw a movie yesterday.

- I lived in Brazil for two years.(I don't live there any more)

- I studied French when I was a child.

- I finished work, walked to the beach,

and found a nice place to swim.

- I was watching TV when she called.

- Last night at 6 p.m., I was eating

dinner.

COMPARE:

- Last night at 6 p.m., I ate dinner.

(I started eating at 6 p.m.)

- Last night at 6 p.m., I was eating

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Past Continuous with words such as <i>always</i> or <i>constantly</i> expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happened in the past. The concept is very similar to the expression <i>used to</i> but with negative emotion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He <u>was constantly talking</u>. He annoyed everyone.
Past Perfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Past Perfect expresses the idea that something occurred before another action in the past. It can also show that something happened before a specific time in the past. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>had never seen</u> such a beautiful beach before I went to Kauai.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With Non-progressive Verbs and some non-progressive uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Past Perfect to show that something started in the past and continued up until another action in the past. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We <u>had had</u> that car for ten years before it broke down.
Past Perf. Cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We use the Past Perfect Continuous to show that something started in the past and continued up until another time in the past. "For five minutes" and "for two weeks" are both durations which can be used with the Past Perfect Continuous. Notice that this is related to the Present Perfect Continuous; however, the duration does not continue until now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They <u>had been talking</u> for over an hour before Tony arrived.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the Past Perfect Continuous before another action in the past is a good way to show cause and effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason was tired because he <u>had been jogging</u>.
	<p>NOTE: If you do not include a duration such as "for five minutes," "for two weeks" or "since Friday", many English speakers choose to use the Past Continuous. There is also a difference in meaning. Compare the examples below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <u>was reading</u> when my roommate returned. Emphasizes the interruption of "reading." I <u>had been reading for an hour</u> when my roommate returned. Emphasizes the amount of time "for an hour."
Going to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Be going to" expresses that something is a plan. It expresses the idea that a person intends to do something in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He <u>is going to spend</u> his vacation in Hawaii
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both "will" and "be going to" can express the idea of a general prediction about the future. Predictions are guesses about what might happen in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Smith <u>will be</u> the next President. John Smith <u>is going to be</u> the next President.
Will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Will" often suggests that a speaker will do something voluntarily. A voluntary action is one the speaker offers to do for someone else. Often we use "will" to respond to someone else's complaint or request for help. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A: I'm really hungry. B: I'll make some sandwiches

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Will" is usually used in promises. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will call you when I arrive.
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Future Continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Future Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the future will be interrupted. The interruption is usually an action in the Simple Future. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I <u>will be watching</u> TV when she <u>arrives</u> tonight.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In USE 1, described above, the Future Continuous is interrupted by an action in the Simple Future. However, you can also use a specific time as an interruption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At midnight tonight, we <u>will still be driving</u> through the desert.
Future Perfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Perfect expresses the idea that something will occur before another action in the future. It can also show that something will happen before a specific time in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By next November, I <u>will have received</u> my promotion.