

ENGLISH TENSES

Tense	Signal words	Use	Form	Examples affirmative	Examples negative	Examples interrogative
Simple Present	every day sometimes always often usually seldom never first ... then	something happens repeatedly how often something happens one action follows another things in general with the following verbs (to love, to hate, to think, etc.) future meaning: timetables, programmes	Infinitive he/she/it + -s	I work . He works . I go . He goes .	I don't work . He doesn't work . I don't go . He doesn't go .	Do I work ? Does he work ? Do I go ? Does he go ?
Present Progressive	now at the moment Look! Listen!	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)	to be (am/are/is) + Infinitive + ing	I'm working . He's working . I'm going . He's going .	I'm not working . He isn't working . I'm not going . He isn't going .	Am I working ? Is he working ? Am I going ? Is he going ?
Simple Past	last ago in 1990 yesterday	action took place in the past, mostly connected with an expression of time (no connection to the present)	regular: Infinitive + -ed irregular: 2. Spalte	I worked . He worked . I went . He went .	I didn't work . He didn't work . I didn't go . He didn't go .	Did I work ? Did he work ? Did I go ? Did he go ?

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Past Progressive	while	<p>an action happened in the middle of another action</p> <p>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>I was working.</p> <p>He was working.</p> <p>I was going.</p> <p>He was going.</p>	<p>I wasn't working.</p> <p>He wasn't working.</p> <p>I wasn't going.</p> <p>He wasn't going.</p>	<p>Was I working?</p> <p>Was he working?</p> <p>Was I going?</p> <p>Was he going?</p>
Simple Present Perfect	just yet never ever already so far, up to now, since for recently	<p>you say that sth. has happened or is finished in the past and it has a connection to the present</p> <p>action started in the past and continues up to the present</p>	<p>have/has + past participle*</p> <p>*(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I have worked.</p> <p>He has worked.</p> <p>I have gone.</p> <p>He has gone.</p>	<p>I haven't worked.</p> <p>He hasn't worked.</p> <p>I haven't gone.</p> <p>He hasn't gone.</p>	<p>Have I worked?</p> <p>Has he worked?</p> <p>Have I gone?</p> <p>Has he gone?</p>
Present Perfect Progressive	all day the whole day how long since for	<p>action began in the past and has just stopped</p> <p>how long the action has been happening</p> <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	have/has + been + Infinitive + -ing	<p>I have been working.</p> <p>He has been working.</p> <p>I have been going.</p> <p>He has been going.</p>	<p>I haven't been working.</p> <p>He hasn't been working.</p> <p>I haven't been going.</p> <p>He hasn't been going.</p>	<p>Have I been working?</p> <p>Has he been working?</p> <p>Have I been going?</p> <p>Has he been going?</p>

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Simple Past Perfect	already just never	mostly when two actions in a story are related to each other: the action which had already happened is put into past perfect, the other action into simple past the past of the Present Perfect	had + past participle* *(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I had worked. He had worked. I had gone. He had gone.	I hadn't worked. He hadn't worked. I hadn't gone. He hadn't gone.	Had I worked? Had he worked? Had I gone? Had he gone?
Past Perfect Progressive	how long since for	how long something had been happening before something else happened	had + been + Infinitive + ing	I had been working. He had been working. I had been going. He had been going.	I hadn't been working. He hadn't been working. I hadn't been going. He hadn't been going.	Had I been working? Had he been working? Had I been going? Had he been going?
will - future		predictions about the future (you think that sth will happen) you decide to do sth. spontaneously at the time of speaking, you haven't made a main clause in type I of the if clauses	will + Infinitive	I'll work. He'll work. I'll go. He'll go.	I won't work. He won't work. I won't go. He won't go.	Will I work? Will he work? Will I go? Will he go?
going to - future		when you have already decided to do sth. in the future what you think what will happen	be (am/are/is) + going to + Infinitive	I'm going to work. He's going to work. I'm going to go. He's going to go.	I'm not going to work. He's not going to work. I'm not going to go. He's not going to go.	Am I going to work? Is he going to work? Am I going to go? Is he going to go?

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Future Progressive		<p>An action will be in progress at a certain time in the future. This action has begun before the certain time.</p> <p>Something happens because it normally happens.</p>	<p>will + be + Infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I'll be working.</p> <p>He'll be working.</p> <p>I'll be going.</p> <p>He'll be going.</p>	<p>I won't be working.</p> <p>He won't be working.</p> <p>I won't be going.</p> <p>He won't be going.</p>	<p>Will I be working?</p> <p>Will he be working?</p> <p>Will I be going?</p> <p>Will he be going?</p>
Future Perfect Simple		<p>sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future</p>	<p>will + have + past participle*</p> <p>*(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I'll have worked.</p> <p>He'll have worked.</p> <p>I'll have gone.</p> <p>He'll have gone.</p>	<p>I won't have worked.</p> <p>He won't have worked.</p> <p>I won't have gone.</p> <p>He won't have gone.</p>	<p>Will I have worked?</p> <p>Will he have worked?</p> <p>Will I have gone?</p> <p>Will he have gone?</p>
Future Perfect Progressive		<p>sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future</p> <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	<p>will + have + been + Infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I'll have been working.</p> <p>He'll have been working.</p> <p>I'll have been going.</p> <p>He'll have been going.</p>	<p>I won't have been working.</p> <p>He won't have been working.</p> <p>I won't have been going.</p> <p>He won't have been going.</p>	<p>Will I have been working?</p> <p>Will he have been working?</p> <p>Will I have been going?</p> <p>Will he have been going?</p>
Conditional Simple		<p>sth. that might happen</p> <p>main clause in type II of the if clauses</p>	<p>would + Infinitive</p>	<p>I would work.</p> <p>He would work.</p> <p>I would go.</p> <p>He would go.</p>	<p>I wouldn't work.</p> <p>He wouldn't work.</p> <p>I wouldn't go.</p> <p>He wouldn't go.</p>	<p>Would I work?</p> <p>Would he work?</p> <p>Would I go?</p> <p>Would he go?</p>

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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		sth. that might have happened in the past (It's too late now.) main clause in type III of the if clauses	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 (It's too late now.) emphasis: length of time of an action	would + have + been + Infinitive + ing	I would have been working. He would have been going. I would have been going. He would have been going.	I wouldn't have been working. He wouldn't have been going. 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 did not list signal words in the future . Always remember what action is described.