

ENGLISH TENSES TIMELINE

Conjugated verbs are highlighted in bold. Tenses which are rarely used in everyday conversation are marked by an asterik (*).

SIMPLE ACTIVE	SIMPLE PASSIVE		(PROGRESSIVE) CONTINUOUS ACTIVE	(PROGRESSIVE) CONTINUOUS PASSIVE
		PAST TIME ↑		
She had already eaten when I arrived.	The painting had been sold twice before it was destroyed.	PAST PERFECT ↑	I had been waiting for four hours when he finally arrived.	The house had been being painted for over a month before they began to decorate the interior. *
I bought a new car last week.	The book was written in 1876 by Mark Garland.	PAST ↑	I was watching TV when she arrived.	The problem was being solved when I arrived late for class.
She has lived in Somerset for many years.	The company has been managed by Neil Haines for the last two years.	PRESENT PERFECT ↑	She has been working at Countdown for six months.	The students have been being taught for the last four hours. *
He works five days a week.	Those shoes are made in Poland.	PRESENT ↑	I am working at the moment.	The work is being done by Radek.

		 PRESENT MOMENT 		
		 FUTURE INTENTION ↓	They are going to fly to London tomorrow.	The reports are going to be completed by the marketing department.
The sun will shine tomorrow.	The food will be brought later.	 FUTURE SIMPLE ↓	He will be teaching tomorrow at six o'clock.	The bread rolls will be being baked at two. *
I will have completed the course by the end of next week.	The translation will have been finished by tomorrow afternoon.	 FUTURE PERFECT ↓	She will have been working here for two years by the end of next month.	The house will have been being built for six months by the time they finish. *
		FUTURE TIME ↓		

The FIVE most important tenses in the English language

	Present Simple (I go)	Past Simple (I went)	Future Simple (I will go)	Present Perfect (I have gone)	Present Continuous (I am going)
When do I use this tense?	Used for present facts and repeated actions.	Used for completed actions in the past.	Used for future actions, even if they are only a few seconds in the future.	Used for actions which started in the past and are still true now.	Used for temporary actions going on now.
Words that signal use of the tense:	every (day, week, month, year, etc.), always, usually, often, sometimes, etc.	Yesterday, last (week, month, year, etc.), when I was a child, this morning (if it is no longer morning), etc.	Tomorrow, next (week, month, year, etc.), in the future, when I retire, when I get home, etc.	Since, for, ever (with questions), up to now, how long (with questions), etc.	Now, at the moment, today, this week, presently, etc.
How do I make the tense?	<p>The first form of the verb is used to make the Present Simple.</p> <p>For questions and negatives the helping verb (do / does) is used with the first form of the verb.</p> <p>An important rule with the Present Simple is: Don't forget the "s" with he, she & it!</p>	<p>The second form of the verb is used for the Past Simple.</p> <p>However, when making questions and negatives in the Past Simple, we use the helping verb "did" and leave the main verb in its infinitive form (1st form).</p>	<p>The Future Simple is formed with the helping verb will and the first form of the verb.</p>	<p>The Present Perfect is formed with the helping verb have (or: has) and the third form of the verb.</p>	<p>The Present Continuous is formed with the helping verb to be (am, are, is) and the "-ing" form of the verb.</p>
Which helping verb do I use?	do / does	did	will	have / has	to be (am, are, is)