

# English Tenses

## Past

## Present

## Future

Past simple:  
I went to school.

Present simple:  
I go to school.

Future simple:  
I will go to school.

Past perfect:  
I had gone to school.

Present perfect:  
I have been to school.

Future perfect:  
I will have gone to school.

Past continuous:  
I was going to school.

Present continuous:  
I am going to school.

Future continuous:  
I will be going to school.

Past perfect continuous:  
I had been going to school.

Present perfect continuous:  
I have been going to school.

Future perfect continuous:  
I will have been going to school.





# English Tenses

## A. Issues of Terminology – The 12 Tense System in English

### A. Present

Present Simple  
Present Continuous  
Present Perfect Simple  
Present Perfect Continuous

### C. Future

Future Simple  
Future Continuous  
Future Perfect Simple  
Future Perfect Continuous

### B. Past

Past Simple  
Past Continuous  
Past Perfect Simple  
Past Perfect Continuous

This classification is based on **TIME REFERENCE**.



# English Tenses

## A. Issues of Terminology – The 12 Tense System in English

### A. Simple

Simple Present

Simple Present Perfect

Simple Past

Simple Past Perfect

Simple Future

Simple Future Perfect

### B. Continuous

Continuous Present

Continuous Present Perfect

Continuous Past

Continuous Past Perfect

Continuous Future

Continuous Future Perfect



This classification is based on difference in **ASPECT**.

# English Tenses

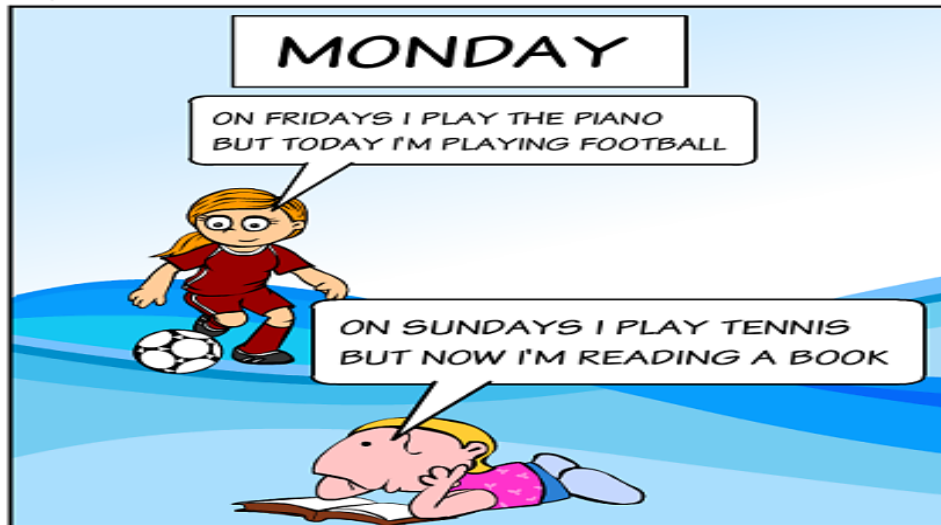
## The Present Tense Forms

### Present Time

Present time is seen as the time of speaking or timing, or as ‘time around now’, or as the more general, permanent time relating to truths and general facts.

References to present time are most typically indicated in the verb phrase through the **simple** and **progressive** forms of the present tense.

PRESENT SIMPLE AND CONT - BY PAULAENGLISH



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Revision of Advanced English Grammar for 1st Year Students



*Present Simple*

*and*

*Present Continuous*

# English Tenses

## Present Tense Forms – Present Simple & Present Progressive

### 1. Simple Present

#### Structure:

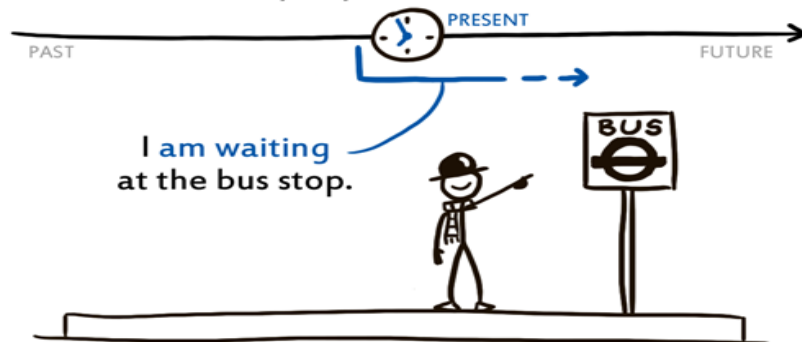
Present tense form of lexical V (-s/-es/-ies)+ **do/does** (in questions/negatives)

### 2. Present Progressive

#### Structure:

Present tense form of Be + lexical V-ing form

I take the bus every day.



# English Tenses

## Present Tense Forms – Simple Present

### 1. Simple Present

Affirmative

**I/you/we/you/they** eat an apple every day.

**He/she/It** eats an apple every day.

Question

**Do I/you/we/you/they** eat an apple every day?

**Does He/she/It** eat an apple every day?

Negation

**I/you/we/you/they** **don't** eat an apple every day.

**He/she/It** **doesn't** eat an apple every day



# Present Simple Spelling Rules

Most verbs takes -s in the third person singular. (He/ She/ it)

1

- ss, -sh,



-es

-ch, -x, -o

I miss- he misses  
I finish- he finishes  
I watch- he watches  
I mix- he mixes  
I go- he goes

2

a consonant + y



-ies

I study - he studies  
I cry- he cries

3

a vowel + y



-s

I play- he plays





# English Tenses

## Present Tense Forms (Present Progressive)

### 2. Present Continuous

Affirmative

I am /you/we/you/they are eating an apple every day.

He/she/It is eating an apple every day.

Question

Am I/Are you/we/you/they eating an apple every day?

Is He/she/It eating an apple every day?

Negation

I am not ('m not) you are not (aren't)/we/you/they eating an apple every day.

He/she/It is not (isn't) eating an apple every day



# English Tenses

## Present Tense Forms (Present Progressive)

✓Some verbs in English are only very rarely used in Continuous tenses. These include verbs that describe:

Mental states and processes: e.g. believe, know, think

Responses of the senses: e.g. smell, taste

Emotional responses: e.g. adore, admire, detest, hate, like

Ongoing process: have to need want.

Permanent qualities of characteristics: consist, contain, belong



✓Some of these verbs can form Continuous but their meaning change.

e.g. **I am seeing** my doctor this afternoon. (i.e. I have an arranged appointment)

**I can see** the kite flying high. (I have the ability to see).



# Non-continuous (static) verbs

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These verbs are most commonly used to describe a state, not an action, so they are not typically used in continuous

## Some Common Stative Verbs

agree	doubt	love	remember
amaze	envy	look*	resemble
appreciate	equal	matter	see*
be*	exist	mean	seem
believe	fear	mind*	smell*
belong	feel*	need	sound
care*	forget	owe	taste*
concern	hate	own	think*
consist	have*	please	understand
contain	hear	possess	want
dislike	know	prefer	wish
disagree	like	recognize	weigh*



# English Tenses

## Present Tenses Meaning (Simple Present)

### A. Simple Present

-For permanent states of affairs

e.g. I speak four languages and I live in L.A.

-For general truths

e.g. 2 plus 2 makes 4

The sun **rises** from the East and **sets** in the West.

**For habitual actions** with adverbs of frequency and time adverbials

e.g. I usually drive to work every day.

-For future actions (when used in itineraries)

e.g. My train leaves at 8 'clock tomorrow morning.



# English Tenses

## Present Tenses Meaning (Present Progressive)

### B. Present Continuous

-For actions that are happening now, at the time of speaking.

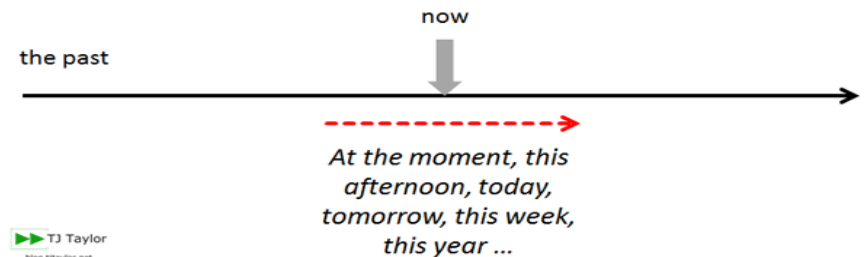
(now, at the moment).

-e.g. I am writing my essay now as I will not be able to do it tomorrow.

-For preplanned actions ('is going to') (with any future phrase)

e.g. I am going to go to the US next month to visit my brother and his family.

the present continuous & time periods



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*Present Perfect*

*and*

*Present Perfect*

*Continuous*

# English Tenses

## Present Tense Forms (Simple Present Perfect & Continuous)

### 1. Simple Present Perfect

#### Structure:

Have/has + Past Participle of the Verb

Past participle for regular verbs + ed and for irregular verbs

(See verb formation in the Simple Past)

### 2. Present Perfect Continuous

#### Structure:

Have/has + been + V-in

**MATT**



*'Pakistan has known for some time the location of Will and Kate's honeymoon'*



# English Tenses

## Present Tense Forms – Simple Present Perfect

### 3. Simple Present Perfect

Affirmative

**I/you/we/you/they** have eaten an apple every day.

**He/she/It** has eaten an apple every day.

Question

**Have I/you/we/you/they** eaten an apple every day?

**Has He/she/It** eaten an apple every day?

Negation

**I/you/we/you/they** have not (haven't) eaten an apple every day.

**He/she/It** hasn't eaten an apple every day.





# English Tenses

## Present Tense Forms – Present Perfect Continuous

### 3. Present Perfect Continuous

Affirmative

**I/you/we/you/they have been eating** an apple every day.

**He/she/It has been eating** an apple every day.

Question

**Have I/you/we/you/they been eating** an apple every day?

**Has He/she/It been eating** an apple every day?

Negation

**I/you/we/you/they have not (haven't) been eating** an apple every day.

**He/she/It has not (hasn't) been eating** an apple every day?



# English Tenses

## Present Tense Meaning – Simple Present Perfect

### 3. Simple Present Perfect

-For actions that have been completed in the past and we do not know when exactly. (cf. Simple Past)

-e.g. I have read this book and as far I can remember it is very interesting.

-To denote when an action started with since and for how long it lasted with for.

-e.g. I haven't seen him **since** last May and so I don't know what he's been up to.

-I have had headaches **for** quite a long time, and to be honest I'm a little bit worried.

- **Most frequently used adverbs: recently, lately, already, and yet (in negative sentences)**



# English Tenses

## Present Tense Meaning – Simple Present Perfect vs. Simple Past

### English grammar

#### present perfect simple

**1 number of times you have done something**

How many times have you seen that film? I've seen it twice.  
Have you been to Paris before? I've only been there once.

**2 things you have done in a continuing time period**

I've done many things in my life. (your life is continuing)  
I haven't spoken to her this week. (this week is continuing)

**3 recently completed actions (often with 'just')**

The film's just started so you haven't missed anything.  
I'm not hungry because I've just had my dinner.

**4 situations that started in the past and continue**

Ireland has been in the EU since 1973 while Spain has been in it for 20 years.  
I've lived in Italy for most of my life. I've been here for 27 years.

**5 past actions with an important present result**

I can't play tennis because I've hurt my knee.  
I've left my keys at work and now I can't get into my house.

**used with  
key words**

just  
already  
still  
yet  
ever  
never  
recently

#### past simple

**1 finished past state/action (with a specific time)**

I saw that film last week when I went to the cinema with my friends.  
Ireland joined the EU in 1973. Spain and Portugal joined in 1986.  
I didn't speak to her this morning. (finished time period - now it's 18:00)



# English Tenses

## Present Tense Meaning – Present Perfect Continuous

### 4. Present Perfect Continuous

-The most usual use of the tense is to emphasise continuity of action, i.e. that something has been happening for quite a time and then it stopped short.

-e.g. It was a rather boring day as it has been raining all morning and hasn't stopped until not.

