

Present Simple

A habit, a repeated activity, a general truth.

Present Continuous

- something is happening now, at this very moment
- 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
- Sometimes, speakers use the Present Continuous to indicate that something will or will not happen in the near future.
- 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.

Past Simple

- Use the Simple Past to express the idea that an action started and finished at a specific time in the past. Sometimes the speaker may not actually mention the specific time, but they do have one specific time in mind.
- We use the Simple Past to list a series of completed actions in the past. These actions happen 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th...
- The Simple Past can also be used to describe a habit which stopped in the past. It can have the same meaning as "used to". To make it clear that we are talking about a habit we often use expressions such as "always," "often," "usually," "never," "...when I was a child" or "...when I was younger" in the sentence.

Past Continuous

- Use the Past Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually an action in the Simple Past. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.
- You can also use a specific time as an interruption.
- When you use the Past Continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions were happening at the same time. The actions are parallel.
- The Past Continuous with words such as *always* or *constantly* expresses the idea that something irritating or shocking often happened in the past. The concept is very similar to the expression *used to* but with negative emotion. Remember to put the words *always* or *constantly* between "be" and "verb+ing."

Present Perfect

- We use the Present Perfect to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important. ("ever," "never," "once," "many times," "several times," "before," "so far," "already" and "yet")
- You can use the Present Perfect to describe your experience. It is like saying, "I have the experience of..."
- We often use the Present Perfect to talk about change that has happened over a period of time.
- We often use the Present Perfect to say that an action which we expected has not happened. Using the Present Perfect suggests that we are still waiting for the action.
- We also use the Present Perfect to talk about several different actions which occurred in the past at different times. Present Perfect suggests the process is not complete and more actions are possible.
- With Non-continuous Verbs and some non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, 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.

Present Perfect Continuous

- We use the Present Perfect Continuous 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 Continuous.
- Without the durations, the this tense gives a more general meaning of "lately". We often use the words "lately" or "recently" in the sentence to strengthen this meaning.

Past Perfect

- 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.
- 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.
- Unlike the Present Perfect, it is possible to use specific time words or phrases with the Past Perfect. Although this is possible, it is usually not necessary.

Past Perfect Continuous

- 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.
- Using the Past Perfect Continuous before another action in the past is a good way to show cause and effect.

Future Simple

- "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.
- "Will" is usually used in promises.
- "Be going to" expresses that something is a plan. It expresses the idea that a person intends to do something in the future.
- 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. In "prediction" sentences, the subject usually has little control over the future.

Future Continuous

- [WILL BE] + [VERB+ing] or [AM / IS / ARE] + [GOING TO] + [VERBing]
- 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.
- In the Simple Future a specific time is used to show the time an action will begin. In the Future Continuous, a specific time only interrupts the action.
- When you use the Future Continuous with two actions in the same sentence, it expresses the idea that both actions will be happening at the same time. These are Parallel Actions.

Future Perfect

- 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.
- [WILL HAVE] + [PAST PARTICIPLE] or [AM / IS / ARE] + [GOING TO HAVE] + [PAST PARTICIPLE]

Future Perfect Continuous

- [WILL HAVE BEEN] + [VERB+ing] or [AM / IS / ARE] + [GOING TO HAVE BEEN] + [VERB+ing]
- We use the Future Perfect Continuous to show that something will continue up until a particular event or time in the future. "For five minutes," "for two weeks" and "since Friday" are all durations which can be used with the Future Perfect Continuous. Notice that this is related to the Present Perfect Continuous and the Past Perfect Continuous, however the duration stops in the future.
- Using the Future Perfect Continuous before another action in the future is a good way to show cause and effect.