

TENSES

Present Simple

1. An action that happens again and again – habits
2. A fact that is always true – general facts
3. A fact that is true for a long time – a state, a permanent situation
4. Used for timetabled future

Present Continuous

1. An activity that is happening now
2. An activity that is not necessarily happening at the moment of speaking but is happening around now
3. A temporary activity
4. A planned future arrangement that refers to a near future
5. We can use always continually and similar words with progressive tenses to mean very often (used for something that annoys me). These things happen very often (perhaps more often than expected) and are unexpected and unplanned

Present Perfect Simple

1. Unfinished past (permanent situations)
2. An experience
3. A past action with a present result

Present perfect Continuous

1. Unfinished past (temporary situations)
2. A past activity that has a present result

Past Simple

1. Finished/completed action in the past
2. When you tell a story
3. A past situation/habit

Past Continuous

1. Action or activity in progress at a particular time in the past
2. An interrupted past activity
3. For descriptions

Past Perfect Simple

1. An action that happened before another action in the past
2. To say how long something had continued up to a past moment
3. To tell a story in different order

Will Future

1. A future fact or prediction based more on an opinion than a fact
2. A decision, intention or offer made at the moment of speaking
3. Offer, promises, invitations, polite requests, orders, threats and refusals

Going to Future

1. A prediction, based on a present fact
2. A future plan, decision or intention made before the moment of speaking

Future Continuous

1. To say that something will be in progress at a particular moment in the future (will + be + gerund)

Future perfect

1. To say that something will be finished or complete by a certain time in the future (will + have + past participle)