

Grammar Tenses

Revise the 12 Tenses of English

Revise the **twelve English tenses**. Notice how they are organised into six pairs. Which ones do you need to practice?

	<i>Tense:</i>	<i>Times:</i>	<i>Uses:</i>	<i>Forms:</i>	<i>Auxiliary Verbs:</i>	<i>Example Sentences:</i>
1.	present simple	regular time: usually / often / every... / once a... future (e.g. timetables)	regular actions facts zero conditional	infinitive s form (<i>he / she / it</i>)	do / does am / are / is (<i>BE</i>)	+ I like chips. - I do not / don't like chips. ? Do you like chips?
2.	present continuous	now / at the moment future (<i>arrangements</i>) with time phrase	unfinished continuous actions repetition with always	ing form (<i>present participle</i>)	am / are / is	+ I am / 'm reading a book. - I am / 'm not reading a book. ? Are you reading a book?
3.	past simple	finished time in the past: yesterday / last... / ...ago	finished past actions telling news / stories 2 nd conditional	past tense (<i>ed / irreg.</i>) infinitive (- or ?)	did was / were (<i>BE</i>)	+ I met my friend. - I did not / didn't meet my friend. ? Did you meet your friend?
4.	past continuous	finished time in the past, often before a past simple action; when / while	set the scene in the past interrupted past actions at a specific time: 2pm	ing form	was / were	+ I was singing when she arrived. - I was not / wasn't singing when she arrived. ? Were you singing when she arrived?
5.	present perfect	unfinished time: today / this... / up to now / already / just / in my life	action is past, time is unfinished; recent actions life experience (<i>ever</i>)	past participle (<i>ed / irreg.</i>)	have / has (<i>he / she / it</i>)	+ I have / 've eaten lunch. - I have not / haven't eaten lunch. ? Have you eaten lunch?
6.	present perfect continuous	unfinished time: today / this... / up to now / all... / lately / recently	continuous actions in the recent past unfinished actions	ing form	have been / has been (<i>he / she / it</i>)	+ She has / 's been driving all day. - She has not / hasn't been driving all day. ? Has she been driving all day?
7.	future simple	future: tomorrow / next... / soon / later / on... / in... / just	immediate future predictions, promises 1 st conditional	infinitive	will shall (? form) for suggestions	+ I will / 'll text you later. - I will not / won't text you later. ? Will you text me later?
8.	future continuous	at a specific time in the future; at... / tomorrow / next... / on... / in...	timetable / plans interrupted (<i>unfinished</i>) future actions	ing form	will be	+ I will / 'll be cooking when you call. - I will not / won't be cooking when you call. ? Will you be cooking when I call?
9.	past perfect	finished time in the past, often before past simple; before / when / after	set the scene in the past recent actions (<i>just</i>) 3 rd conditional	past participle (<i>ed / irreg.</i>)	had	+ I had / 'd studied before you left. - I had not / hadn't studied before you left. ? Had you studied before I left?
10.	past perfect continuous	finished time in the past, often before past simple; before / when / while	set the scene in the past interrupted past actions temporary actions	ing form	had been	+ I had / 'd been working before I fell asleep. - I had not / hadn't been working before... ? Had you been working before...?
11.	future perfect	before another future action; by / by the time / before / when / at / just	a future action will be finished before another action (<i>present simple</i>)	past participle (<i>ed / irreg.</i>)	will have	+ I will / 'll have / 've eaten by the time we meet. - I will not / won't have / 've eaten by the time... ? Will you have / 've eaten by the time we meet?
12.	future perfect continuous	before another future action; by / by the time / before / while / for / since	unfinished actions compare future actions 2 nd clause: <i>pr / simple</i>	ing form	will have been	+ I will / 'll have been cycling for an hour by 2pm. - I will not / won't have / 've been cycling for... ? Will you have / 've been cycling for...

Remember: we do not usually use **state verbs** (e.g. believe, love, mean, need, want) with continuous tenses: He believed her. not He ~~was believing~~ her.