

# ENGLISH

## VERB TENSES

### PRESENT



The **present tense of a verb** tells that something is happening now.

**Example:** The apple tastes good.

### PAST



The **past tense of a verb** tells that something already happened.

**Example:** I ate the apple.

### FUTURE



The **future tense of a verb** tells that something will happen later.

**Example:** I will eat that apple soon.



# ENGLISH VERB TENSES

81

GRAMMAR BOOK FOR THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

OF VOCATIONAL COLLEGES AND ACADEMIC LYSEUMS

AND IT'S ALSO AVAILABLE FOR NON-SPECIALIZED BACHELOR'S DEGREE STUDENTS

**FROM NILUFARKHON MIRZAKHOLOVA'S COLLECTIONS**

# English Verb Tenses

Grammar book for

The First year students

NILUFARKHON MIRZAKHOLOVA

Grammar book for the first year students

of vocational colleges and academic lyseums

and it's also available for non-specialized bachelor's degree students

composed by N. Mirzaholova to improve students' grammar knowledge as well as their speaking and writing skills.

Printed by [www.Jaxongir editing.com](http://www.Jaxongir editing.com)

Namangan State University

Confirmed by the department of scientific-stylistic handbooks' administration.

Registered by the number of " 11 "

## Acknowledgments

Murodkhon Qodirkhonov, vice rector in scientific issues, Namangan State University;

Sa'dullokhon Umarchonov, vice rector in scientific issues, Namangan Engineering Pedagogical Institute;

Nurillokhon Umarchonov, head of international relations department, Namangan Institute of Engineering and Technology;

Qosimjon Siddiqov, head of "English" department, Namangan State University;

Asatullokhon Sulaymonov, specialist in international relations department, Namangan State University



NAMANGAN- 2018

# Contents

Preface.....	6
Verbs.....	7
The Four Verb Types.....	9
What is tense?.....	11
Verb tenses.....	15
Simple present.....	17
Simple past.....	21
Simple future.....	25
Simple future in the past.....	28
Present continuous.....	29
Past continuous.....	32
Future continuous.....	35
Future continuous in the past.....	39
Present perfect.....	42
Past perfect.....	46
Future perfect.....	51
Future perfect in the past.....	55
Present perfect continuous.....	57
Past perfect continuous.....	59
Future perfect continuous.....	61
Future perfect continuous in the past.....	64
References.....	68

## PREFACE

The book contains a lot of facts and information about verbs and verb tenses.

This book will enrich students' understanding about English tenses. They can make up different sentences in different ways independently with the help of the book.

The 16 verb tenses can be used to develop grammar comprehension as well as oral fluency.

**Tenses** demonstrate the time of an action in a sentence usually performed by or centered around the subject of the sentence. The actions are called verbs. Verbs change according to tenses and other issues. As verbs are the most important elements of English sentences, tenses also carry paramount importance in English grammar. This grammar book does also emphasize functions of verb in a sentence and their role in English verb tenses. I hope this information will be useful in your speaking and writing.

## VERBS

What is a verb?

A verb is a word that expresses an action or a state of being.

As you can see from that definition, there are two main categories of verbs: action verbs and state of being verbs (also known as linking verbs).

Verbs express actions or states of being.

Main verbs express actions or states of being.

He swims. (action)

He is president. (state of being)

Helping verbs help main verbs. They can stand alone. Together, helping verbs and main verbs form verb phrases.

She will swim.

She has been president.

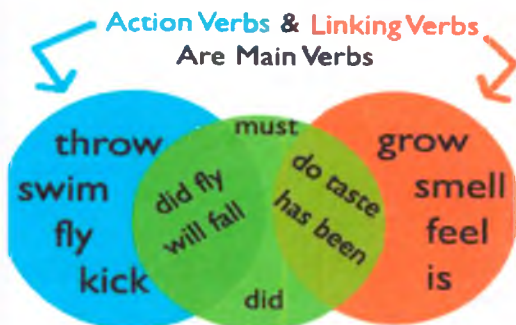
The shuttle **flew** into space.

Because action verbs and linking verbs are strong enough to be used in sentences all by themselves, they are called main verbs.

I **love** cheese. I **turned** the page. (action verbs)

I **am** a teacher. I **turned** green. (linking verbs)

There is also a third category of verbs which doesn't act any at all. They are the helping verbs. The reason that these verbs don't act any of the same that action and linking verbs act is because they don't stand alone as main verbs.



Helping Verbs Are Not Main Verbs

ing verb.

I **will play** the piano. (*will* = helping verb, *play* = action verb)

I **will be** a teacher. (*will* = helping verb, *be* = linking verb)

Some verbs can function as main verbs or helping verbs, but they will only do one job at a time in a sentence.

I **have** a cat. (*have* = main verb, action verb)

I **have** been reading a great book. (*have* = helping verb)

I **am** a teacher. (*am* = main verb, linking verb)

I **am** cooking dinner for my family. (*am* = helping verb)

---

## Let's look at some examples of verbs!

Action verb with no helping verb	<i>I ate five pizzas!</i>
Helping verb helping an action verb	<i>Now, my stomach <b>will hurt</b> for an hour.</i>
Two helping verbs helping an action verb	<i>Actually, my stomach <b>will be hurting</b> for a few days.</i>

When you have a helping verb along with an action or linking verb, all of those verbs together are called a verb phrase.

Here are some examples of sentences with **verb phrases**.

**Example:** Now, I will eat fruits and veggies.

helping verb	will
main verb (action verb)	eat
verb phrase	will eat

**Example:** I have been feeling great!

helping verbs	have been
main verb (linking verb)	feeling
verb phrase	have been feeling



What is a verb? Got it all? Here's a summary.

- There are three categories of verbs (action, linking, helping).
- Only two can be main verbs (action, linking). *Main* means that the verb is strong enough to be the only verb in the sentence.
- Helping verbs are not main verbs. They help action and linking verbs.
- A helping verb and a main verb working together are called a *verb phrase*.

---

## The Four Verb Types

So you now know the answer to the question, "What is a verb?" (It's a word that expresses an action or a state of being!)

You also know that there are three categories of verbs (action verbs, linking verbs, and helping verbs).

For the next little while, we are going to focus on main verbs. So forget about those poor little helping verbs for a bit, and let's turn our attention to action verbs and linking verbs.

These two kinds of main verbs can act in four different ways.

<b>Transitive Active</b> Action Verb <b>John <u>kicked</u> the ball.</b>	<b>Intransitive Complete</b> Action Verb <b>The ball <u>rolled</u>.</b>
<b>Transitive Passive</b> Action Verb <b>The ball <u>was kicked</u>.</b>	<b>Intransitive Linking</b> Linking Verb <b>John <u>felt</u> happy.</b>

### 1. Intransitive Complete Verbs

These guys are action verbs, so we know that they show action.

This type of verb does not transfer its action to anyone or anything. These verbs make sense without having to transfer action anywhere.

*Cats drink. Clocks tick. Buses move.*

### 2. Transitive Active Verbs

These action verbs transfer their action to someone or something.

That means that something or someone is always being acted upon. In our example sentence, *ball* is receiving the action *kicked*.

The receiver of the action in this kind of verb is called the **direct object**. In our example sentence, *ball* is the direct object.

Every single transitive active sentence must have a direct object, and the direct object always receives the action.

**Cats drink milk. Clocks make noise. I lost my ticket.**

*Milk* is receiving the action of *drink*. It is what cats drink. It is the direct object.

*Noise* is receiving the action of *make*. It is what clocks make. It is the direct object.

*Ticket* is receiving the action of *lost*. It is what I lost. It is the direct object.

These verbs are written in the active voice.

### 3. Transitive Passive Verbs

These verbs also show action, and they also transfer their action to a receiver.

In transitive active verbs, the receiver was the direct object. In transitive passive verbs, the receiver of the action is the subject!

*The ball was kicked. The house was demolished.*

Who is receiving the action in those sentences?

*Ball* received the action of *kick* and *house* received the action of *demolished*. *Ball* and *house* are the subjects of those sentences.

Notice that we may not actually know who initiated the action. (Who kicked the ball?) Sometimes we find this out in a prepositional phrase.

*The ball was kicked by John. The house was demolished by the storm.*

These verbs are written in the passive voice.

### 4. Intransitive Linking

**Action Verb**

|| turned | page



**Linking Verb**

|| turned \ green



Linking verbs differ from the three other verb types because they are the only verb type that does not express any action.

What do linking verbs do? It's pretty simple. Linking verbs tell us about the *state* or *condition* of the subject.

They link the subject of a sentence with either a noun that renames the subject or an adjective that describes the subject.

Nouns that rename the subject are called *predicate nouns*. Adjectives that describe the subject are called *predicate adjectives*.

*Milk tastes delicious. Clocks are helpful. I am the bus driver!*

It may help you to think of linking verbs as an equal sign between the subject and a predicate noun or a predicate adjective.

<i>I <b>am</b> a teacher.</i>	<i>I = teacher</i>
<i>The soup <b>is</b> salty.</i>	<i>soup = salty</i>

**Am** is linking the subject **I** with the predicate noun *teacher*.

## What is tense?

In grammar, **tense** is a category that expresses time reference. Tenses are usually manifested by the use of specific forms of verbs, particularly in their conjugation patterns.

Basic tenses found in many languages include the past, present and future. Some languages have only two distinct tenses, such as past and non-past, or future and non-future. There are also tenseless languages, like Chinese, which do not have tense at all. On the other hand, some languages make finer tense distinctions, such as remote vs. recent past, or near vs. remote future.

Tenses generally express time relative to the moment of speaking. In some contexts, however, their meaning may be relativised to a point in the past or future which is established in the discourse (the moment being spoken about). This is called relative (as opposed to *absolute*) tense. Some languages have different verb forms or constructions which manifest relative tense, such as pluperfect ("past-in-the-past") and "future-in-the-past".

Expressions of tense are often closely connected with expressions of the category of aspect; sometimes what are traditionally called tenses (in languages such as Latin) may in modern analysis be regarded as combinations of tense with aspect. Verbs are also often conjugated for mood, and since in many cases the three categories are not manifested separately, some languages may be described in terms of a combined tense–aspect–mood (TAM) system.

## Etymology

The English noun *tense* comes from Old French *tens* "time" (spelled *temps* in modern French through deliberate archaisation), from Latin *tempus* "time". It is not related to the adjective *tense*, which comes from Latin *tensus*, the perfect passive participle of *tendere* "stretch".

## Uses of the term

In modern linguistic theory, tense is understood as a category that expresses (grammaticalises) time reference; namely one which, using grammatical means, places a state or action in time. Nonetheless, in many descriptions of languages, particularly in traditional European grammar, the term "tense" is applied to series of verb forms or constructions that express not merely position in time, but also additional properties of the state or action – particularly aspectual or modal properties

The category of aspect expresses how a state or action relates to time – whether it is seen as a complete event, an ongoing or repeated situation, etc. Many languages make a distinction between perfective aspect (denoting complete events) and imperfective aspect (denoting ongoing or repeated situations); some also have other aspects, such as aperfect aspect, denoting a state following a prior event. Some of the traditional "tenses" express time reference together with aspectual information. In Latin and French, for example, the imperfect denotes past time in combination with imperfective aspect, while other verb forms (the Latin perfect, and the French passé composé or passé simple) are used for past time reference with perfective aspect.

The category of mood is used to express modality, which includes such properties as uncertainty, evidentiality, and obligation. Commonly encountered moods include the indicative, subjunctive, and conditional. Mood can be bound up with tense, aspect, or both, in particular verb forms. Hence certain languages are sometimes analysed as having a single tense–aspect–mood (TAM) system, without separate manifestation of the three categories.

The term *tense*, then, particularly in less formal contexts, is sometimes used to denote any combination of tense proper, aspect, and mood. As regards English, there are many verb forms and constructions which combine time reference with continuous and/or perfect aspect, and with indicative, subjunctive or conditional mood. Particularly in some English language teaching materials, some or all of these forms can be referred to simply as tenses (see below).

Particular tense forms need not always carry their basic time-referential meaning in every case. A present tense form may sometimes refer to the past (as in the historical present), a past tense form may sometimes refer to the non-past (as in some English conditional sentences), and so on.

## Possible tenses

Not all languages have tense: tenseless languages include Burmese, Chinese and Dyirbal. Some languages have all three basic tenses (the past, present and future), while others have only two: some have past and non-past tenses, the latter covering both present and future times (as in Japanese, and in English in some analyses), whereas others such as Greenlandic and Quechua have future and non-future. Some languages have four or more tenses, making finer distinctions either in the past (e.g. remote vs. recent past) or in the future (e.g. near vs. remote future). The six-tense language Kalaw Lagaw Ya of Australia has the remote past, the recent past, the today past, the present, the today/near future and the remote future.

A historical past tense, used for events perceived as historical, is found in, for example, the Amazonian Cubeo language.

Tenses that refer specifically to "today" are called hodiernal tenses: these can be either past or future. Apart from Kalaw Lagaw Ya, another language which features such tenses is Mwera, a Bantu language of Tanzania. It is also suggested that in 17th-century French, the passé composé served as a hodiernal past. Tenses which contrast with hodiernals, by referring to the past before today or the future after today, are called pre-hodiernal and post-hodiernal respectively. Some languages also have a crastinal tense, a future tense referring specifically to tomorrow (found in some Bantu languages); or a hesternal tense, a past tense referring specifically to yesterday (although this name is also sometimes used to mean pre-hodiernal). A tense for after tomorrow is thus called post-crastinal, and one for before yesterday is called pre-hesternal.

Another tense found in some languages, including Luganda, is the persistent tense, used to indicate that a state or ongoing action is still the case (or, in the negative, is no longer the case). Luganda also has tenses meaning "so far" and "not yet".

Some languages have special tense forms that are used to express relative tense. Tenses that refer to the past relative to the time under consideration are called anterior; these include the pluperfect (for the past relative to a past time) and the future perfect (for the past relative to a future time). Similarly, posterior tenses refer to the future relative to the time under consideration, as with the English "future-in-the-past": (*he said that*) *he would go*. Relative tense forms are also sometimes analysed as combinations of tense with aspect: the perfect aspect in the anterior case, or the prospective aspect in the posterior case.

## Tense marking

Tense is normally indicated by the use of a particular verb form – either an inflected form of the main verb, or a multi-word construction, or both in combination. Inflection may involve the use of affixes, such as the *-ed* ending that marks the past tense of English regular verbs, but can also entail stem modifications, such as ablaut, as found in the strong verbs in English and other Germanic languages, or reduplication. Multi-word tense constructions often involve auxiliary verbs or clitics. Examples which combine both types of tense marking include the French passé composé, which has an auxiliary verb together with the inflected past participle form of the main verb; and the Irish past tense, where the proclitic *do* (in various surface forms) appears in conjunction with the affixed or ablaut-modified past tense form of the main verb.

As has already been mentioned, indications of tense are often bound up with indications of other verbal categories, such as aspect and mood. The conjugation patterns of verbs often also reflect agreement with categories pertaining to the subject, such as person, number and gender. It is consequently not always possible to identify elements that mark any specific category, such as tense, separately from the others.

A few languages have been shown to mark tense information (as well as aspect and mood) on nouns. This may be called nominal TAM.

Languages that do not have grammatical tense, such as Chinese, express time reference chiefly by lexical means – through adverbials, time phrases, and so on. (The same is done in tensed languages, to supplement or reinforce the time information conveyed by the choice of tense.) Time

information is also sometimes conveyed as a secondary feature by markers of other categories, as with the Chinese aspect markers *le* and *guo*, which in most cases place an action in past time. However, much time information is conveyed implicitly by context – it is therefore not always necessary, when translating from a tensed to a tenseless language, say, to express explicitly in the target language all of the information conveyed by the tenses in the source.

## English

English has only two morphological tenses: the present, as in *he goes*, and the past, as in *he went*. The present tense sometimes references the future (as in *the bus leaves tomorrow*), and thus may also be called the non-past (or present–future) tense. (It also sometimes references the past, however, in what is called the historical present.)

Constructions with the modal auxiliary verbs *will* and *shall* also frequently reference the future (although they have other uses as well); these are often described as the English future tense. Less commonly, forms with the auxiliaries *would* and (rarely) *should* are described as a relative tense, the future-in-the-past. (The same forms are used for the conditional mood, and for various other meanings.)

The present and past are distinguished by verb form, using either ablaut (*sing(s) ~ sang*) or suffix (*walk(s) ~ walked*). For details, see English verbs.

English also has continuous (progressive) aspect and perfect aspect; these together produce four aspectual types: simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous. Each of these can combine with the tenses to produce a large set of different constructions, mostly involving one or more auxiliary verbs together with a participle or infinitive:

		Tenses			
		Morphological		With auxiliaries	
		Present (non-past)	Past	Future	Future-in-the-past
Aspects	Simple	<i>go(es)</i>	<i>went</i>	<i>will go</i>	<i>would go</i>
	Continuous	<i>am/is/are going</i>	<i>was/were going</i>	<i>will be going</i>	<i>would be going</i>
	Perfect	<i>have/has gone</i>	<i>had gone</i>	<i>will have gone</i>	<i>would have gone</i>
	Perfect	<i>have/has been</i>	<i>had been</i>	<i>will have been</i>	<i>would have been</i>



In some contexts, particularly in English language teaching, the tense–aspect combinations in the above table may be referred to simply as tenses. For details of the uses of these constructions, as well as additional verb forms representing different grammatical moods, see Uses of English verb forms.

## Verb tenses

### Verb tenses – explanations and exercises

Grammar

English

Verb tenses	1. Affirmative	2. Negative	3. Interrogative
Present simple	They have a car.	They don't have a car.	Do they have a car?
Present continuous	He's reading now.	He isn't reading now.	Is he reading now?
Past simple	They saw a movie.	They didn't see a movie.	Did they see a movie?
Past continuous	It was snowing.	It wasn't snowing.	Was it snowing?
Present perfect	We have been there.	We haven't been there.	Have we been there?
Present perfect continuous	You've been working hard.	You haven't been working hard.	Have you been working hard?
Past perfect	They had left for France.	They hadn't left for France.	Had they left for France?
Past perfect continuous	She had been waiting for him.	She hadn't been waiting for him.	Had she been waiting for him?
Future simple	It will snow this winter.	It won't snow this winter.	Will it snow this winter?
Future continuous	She will be traveling.	She won't be traveling.	Will she be traveling?
Future perfect	He will have arrived.	He won't have arrived.	Will he have arrived?
Future perfect continuous	You will have been working.	You won't have been working.	Will you have been working?
Conditional	I would be there.	I wouldn't be there.	Would you be there?
Conditional continuous	They would be sleeping now.	They wouldn't be sleeping now.	Would they be sleeping now?
Conditional perfect	She would have been there.	She wouldn't have been there.	Would she have been there?
Future be going to	She's going to get married.	She isn't going to get married.	Is she going to get married?

	Past	Present	Future
<b>SIMPLE</b>	An action that ended in the past.	An action that is habitual or repeated.	A plan for an action in the future.
<i>Formula</i>	<i>Painted</i>	<i>Paints/Paint</i>	<i>Will paint.</i>
<i>Word clue</i>	He painted yesterday	She paints every weekend.	She will paint tomorrow.
<b>CONTINUOUS</b> (be)+ (verb) + ing.	An action that was happening (past continuous) when another action finished (simple past).	An action is in the process of happening now.	An action that will happen in the future for a length of time.
<i>Formula</i>	<i>Was/were painting</i>	<i>Am/are/is painting</i>	<i>Will be painting</i>
<i>Word clue</i>	I was painting when I saw the accident.	She is painting now.	They will be painting when you arrive tomorrow.
<b>PERFECT</b> (have)+ (verb)	An action that finished before another action or time in the past.	An action that happened at an unsaid time in the past.	An action that will finish before another action or time in the future.
<i>Formula</i>	<i>Had painted.</i>	<i>Have/has painted</i>	<i>Will have painted</i>
<i>Word clue</i>	We had painted the house before the rain started.	She has painted many portraits.	He will have painted the bedroom before his daughter comes home.
<b>PERFECT CONTINUOUS</b> (have)+ been + (verb)+ ing	An action that happened over time in the past before another action.	An action that happens over time, starting in the past and continuing into the present.	An action that happens over time in the future before another action.
<i>Formula</i>	<i>Had been painting</i>	<i>Have/has been painting</i>	<i>Will have been painting</i>
<i>Word clue</i>	She had been painting for a while when she started classes.	I have been painting landscapes since I started school.	We will have been painting for several hours before we can see how it looks.



## SIMPLE PRESENT

Let's look at some examples to the simple present

1. I always go to college
2. Book makes people intelligent
3. Javohirkhon believes in fairy tales

1. So, the present simple describes events which happen regularly. So, *I always go to college.*
2. The simple present makes statements of fact: *A book makes people intelligent.*

or

*Saturday comes after Friday.*

3. And we can also use the present simple to express an opinion: *Javohirkhon believes in fairy tales.*

or

*My favorite game is tennis.*

### More examples

Simple Present Tense		
Affirmative	Negative	Question
I/You/We/They + V1	I/You/We/They + don't + V1	Do + I/You/We/They + V1
He/She/It + V1 (s,es,ies)	He/She/It + doesn't + V1	Does + He/She/It + V1
I play football.	I don't play football.	Do I play football?
You play football.	You don't play football.	Do you play football?
We play football.	We don't play football.	Do we play football?
They play football.	They don't play football.	Do they play football?
He plays football.	He doesn't play football.	Does he play football?
She plays football.	She doesn't play football.	Does she play football?
It plays football.	It doesn't play football.	Does it play football?



# Simple Present Forms

The simple present is just the base form of the verb. Questions are made with *do* and negative forms are made with *do not*.

- Statement: You **speak** English.
- Question: **Do** you **speak** English?
- Negative: You **do not speak** English.

In the third person singular, -s or -es is added. Questions are made with *does* and negative forms are made with *does not*.

- Statement: He **speaks** English.
- Question: **Does** he **speak** English?
- Negative: He **does not speak** English.

# Simple Present Uses

## USE 1 Repeated Actions

Use the simple present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.

Examples:

- I **play** tennis.
- She **does not play** tennis.
- **Does** he **play** tennis?
- The train **leaves** every morning at 8 AM.
- The train **does not leave** at 9 AM.
- When **does** the train usually **leave**?
- She always **forgets** her purse.
- He never **forgets** his wallet.
- Every twelve months, the Earth **circles** the Sun.
- **Does** the Sun **circle** the Earth?

## USE 2 Facts or Generalizations

The simple present can also indicate the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is not important if the speaker is correct about the fact. It is also used to make generalizations about people or things.

Examples:

- Cats **like** milk.
- Birds **do not like** milk.
- **Do** pigs **like** milk?
- California **is** in America.
- California **is not** in the United Kingdom.

- Windows **are** made of glass.
- Windows **are not** made of wood.
- New York **is** a small city. *It is not important that this fact is untrue.*

### USE 3 Scheduled Events in the Near Future

Speakers occasionally use simple present to talk about scheduled events in the near future. This is most commonly done when talking about public transportation, but it can be used with other scheduled events as well.

Examples:

- The train **leaves** tonight at 6 PM.
- The bus **does not arrive** at 11 AM, it **arrives** at 11 PM.
- When **do** we **board** the plane?
- The party **starts** at 8 o'clock.
- When **does** class **begin** tomorrow?

### USE 4 Now (Non-Continuous Verbs)

Speakers sometimes use the simple present to express the idea that an action is happening or is not happening now. This can only be done with non-continuous verbs and certain mixed verbs.

Examples:

- I **am** here now.
- She **is not** here now.
- He **needs** help right now.
- He **does not need** help now.
- He **has** his passport in his hand.
- **Do** you **have** your passport with you?

## Simple Present Tips

### ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You **only** speak English.
- Do you **only** speak English?

### ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- Once a week, Tom **cleans** the car. *Active*
- Once a week, the car **is cleaned** by Tom. *Passive*

# Form ) Present Simple

S + verb + object ...

I/we/they/you + like + tea.

He/she/it + likes + tea.

Use it

for ...

- \* Facts.
- \* Habitual actions.
- \* Things that don't/won't change.
- \* Describing yourself.

S + don't/doesn't + verb + object ...

I + don't + like + tea.

She + doesn't + like + tea.

Signal words

Adverbs of frequency, like:

- \* Often
- \* Usually
- \* Sometimes
- \* Never

Do/Does + S + verb + object?

Do + you/we/they/I + like + tea?

Does + he/she/it + like + tea?

BUT REMEMBER



\*\*\* The verb 'to be' is different \*\*\*

I + am (Australian.)

He/she/it + is (clever.)

you/we/they + are (nice.)

# Past Tense Verbs



Sometimes you have to drop the 'c' or change the 'y' to an 'i' first.

Most verbs → add -ed.

play → played

talk → talked

share → shared

visit → visited

finish → finished

carry → carried

mix → mixed

crash → crashed

cry → cried

Some verbs are irregular.

bring → brought

tell → told

teach → taught

win → won

do → did

run → ran

go → went

drink → drank

make → made

Some verbs stay the same.

hit → hit

cost → cost

cut → cut

quit → quit

hurt → hurt

put → put

## Past simple tense :

### FORM

[VERB+ed] or irregular verbs

Examples:

- You **called** Debbie.
- **Did** you **call** Debbie?
- You **did not call** Debbie.

### USE 1 Completed Action in the Past



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.

Examples:

- I **saw** a movie yesterday.
- I **didn't see** a play yesterday.
- Last year, I **traveled** to Japan.
- Last year, I **didn't travel** to Korea.
- **Did** you **have** dinner last night?
- She **washed** her car.
- He **didn't wash** his car.

### USE 2 A Series of Completed Actions



We use the Simple Past to list a series of completed actions in the past. These actions happen 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and so on.

Examples:

- I **finished** work, **walked** to the beach, and **found** a nice place to swim.
- He **arrived** from the airport at 8:00, **checked** into the hotel at 9:00, and **met** the others at 10:00.
- **Did** you **add** flour, **pour** in the milk, and then **add** the eggs?

### USE 3 Duration in Past



The Simple Past can be used with a duration which starts and stops in the past. A duration is a longer action often indicated by expressions such as: for two years, for five minutes, all day, all year, etc.

Examples:

- I **lived** in Brazil for two years.
- Shauna **studied** Japanese for five years.
- They **sat** at the beach all day.
- They **did not stay** at the party the entire time.
- We **talked** on the phone for thirty minutes.
- A: How long **did** you **wait** for them?  
B: We **waited** for one hour.

### USE 4 Habits in the Past



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 add expressions such as: always, often, usually, never, when I was a child, when I was younger, etc.

Examples:

- I **studied** French when I was a child.
- He **played** the violin.
- He **didn't play** the piano.
- **Did** you **play** a musical instrument when you were a kid?
- She **worked** at the movie theater after school.
- They never **went** to school, they always **skipped** class.

### USE 5 Past Facts or Generalizations



The Simple Past can also be used to describe past facts or generalizations which are no longer true. As in USE 4 above, this use of the Simple Past is quite similar to the expression "used to."

Examples:

- She **was** shy as a child, but now she is very outgoing.
- He **didn't like** tomatoes before.
- **Did you live** in Texas when you **were** a kid?
- People **paid** much more to make cell phone calls in the past.

## IMPORTANT When-Clauses Happen First

Clauses are groups of words which have meaning but are often not complete sentences. Some clauses begin with the word "when" such as "when I dropped my pen..." or "when class began..." These clauses are called when-clauses, and they are very important. The examples below contain when-clauses.

Examples:

- **When I paid her one dollar**, she answered my question.
- She answered my question **when I paid her one dollar**.

When-clauses are important because they always happen first when both clauses are in the Simple Past. Both of the examples above mean the same thing: first, I paid her one dollar, and then, she answered my question. It is not important whether "when I paid her one dollar" is at the beginning of the sentence or at the end of the sentence. However, the example below has a different meaning. First, she answered my question, and then, I paid her one dollar.

Example:

- I paid her one dollar **when she answered my question**.

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You **just** called Debbie.
- Did you **just** call Debbie?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- Tom **repaired** the car. *Active*
- The car **was repaired** by Tom. *Passive*



## SIMPLE FUTURE

Simple Future has two different forms in English: "will" and "be going to." Although the two forms can sometimes be used interchangeably, they often express two very different meanings. These different meanings might seem too abstract at first, but with time and practice, the differences will become clear. Both "will" and "be going to" refer to a specific time in the future.



### FORM Will

[will + verb]

Examples:

- You **will help** him later.
- **Will you help** him later?
- You **will not help** him later.

### FORM Be Going To

[am/is/are + going to + verb]

Examples:

- You **are going to meet** Jane tonight.
- **Are you going to meet** Jane tonight?
- You **are not going to meet** Jane tonight.

### USE 1 "Will" to Express a Voluntary Action

"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. We also use "will" when we request that someone help us or volunteer to do something for us. Similarly, we use "will not" or "won't" when we refuse to voluntarily do something.

Examples:

- I **will send** you the information when I get it.
- I **will translate** the email, so Mr. Smith can read it.
- **Will you help** me move this heavy table?
- **Will you make** dinner?

- I **will not do** your homework for you.
- I **won't do** all the housework myself!
- A: I'm really hungry.  
B: I'll **make** some sandwiches.
- A: I'm so tired. I'm about to **fall** asleep.  
B: I'll **get** you some coffee.
- A: The phone is ringing.  
B: I'll **get** it.

## USE 2 "Will" to Express a Promise

"Will" is usually used in promises.

Examples:

- I **will call** you when I arrive.
- If I am elected President of the United States, I **will make** sure everyone has access to inexpensive health insurance.
- I promise I **will not tell** him about the surprise party.
- Don't worry, I'll **be** careful.
- I **won't tell** anyone your secret.

## USE 3 "Be going to" to Express a Plan

"Be going to" expresses that something is a plan. It expresses the idea that a person intends to do something in the future. It does not matter whether the plan is realistic or not.

Examples:

- He **is going to spend** his vacation in Hawaii.
- She **is not going to spend** her vacation in Hawaii.
- A: When **are we going to meet** each other tonight?  
B: We **are going to meet** at 6 PM.
- I'm **going to be** an actor when I grow up.
- Michelle **is going to begin** medical school next year.
- They **are going to drive** all the way to Alaska.
- Who **are you going to invite** to the party?
- A: Who **is going to make** John's birthday cake?  
B: Sue **is going to make** John's birthday cake.

## USE 4 "Will" or "Be Going to" to Express a Prediction

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 and therefore USES 1-3 do not apply. In the following examples, there is no difference in meaning.

Examples:

- The year 2222 **will be** a very interesting year.
- The year 2222 **is going to be** a very interesting year.
- John Smith **will be** the next President.
- John Smith **is going to be** the next President.
- The movie "Zenith" **will win** several Academy Awards.
- The movie "Zenith" **is going to win** several Academy Awards.

## IMPORTANT

In the Simple Future, it is not always clear which USE the speaker has in mind. Often, there is more than one way to interpret a sentence's meaning.

### No Future in Time Clauses

Like all future forms, the Simple Future cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: *when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc.* Instead of Simple Future, Simple Present is used.

Examples:

- When you **will arrive** tonight, we will go out for dinner. **Not Correct**
- When you **arrive** tonight, we will go out for dinner. **Correct**

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: *always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.*

Examples:

- You will **never** help him.
- Will you **ever** help him?
- You are **never** going to meet Jane.
- Are you **ever** going to meet Jane?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- John **will finish** the work by 5:00 PM. *Active*
- The work **will be finished** by 5:00 PM. *Passive*
  
- Sally **is going to make** a beautiful dinner tonight. *Active*
- A beautiful dinner **is going to be made** by Sally tonight. *Passive*

## SIMPLE FUTURE IN THE PAST

### Future in the Past

Like Simple Future, Future in the Past has two different forms in English: "would" and "was going to." Although the two forms can sometimes be used interchangeably, they often express two different meanings.

#### FORM Would

[would + VERB]

Examples:

- I knew you **would help** him.
- I knew you **would not help** him.

#### FORM Was/Were Going To

[was/were + going to + VERB]

Examples:

- I knew you **were going to go** to the party.
- I knew you **were not going to go** to the party.

### USE 1 Future in Past

<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
Past	Present	Future

Future in the Past is used to express the idea that in the past you thought something would happen in the future. It does not matter if you are correct or not. Future in the Past follows the same basic rules as the Simple Future. "Would" is used to volunteer or promise, and "was going to" is used to plan. Moreover, both forms can be used to make predictions about the future.

Examples:

- I told you he **was going to come** to the party. *plan*
- I knew Julie **would make** dinner. *voluntary action*
- Jane said Sam **was going to bring** his sister with him, but he came alone. *plan*
- I had a feeling that the vacation **was going to be** a disaster. *prediction*
- He promised he **would send** a postcard from Egypt. *promise*

## REMEMBER No Future in Time Clauses

Like all future forms, Future in the Past cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of using Future in the Past, you must use Simple Past.

Examples:

- I already told Mark that when he **would arrive**, we would go out for dinner. **Not Correct**
- I already told Mark that when he **arrived**, we would go out for dinner. **Correct**

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- I knew John **would finish** the work by 5:00 PM. *Active*
- I knew the work **would be finished** by 5:00 PM. *Passive*
- I thought Sally **was going to make** a beautiful dinner. *Active*
- I thought a beautiful dinner **was going to be made** by Sally. *Passive*

## PRESENT CONTINUOUS

### FORM

[am/is/are + present participle]

Examples:

- You **are watching** TV.
- **Are you watching** TV?
- You **are not watching** TV.

### USE 1 Now



Use the Present Continuous with Normal Verbs to express the idea that something is happening now, at this very moment. It can also be used to show that something is not happening now.

Examples:

- You **are learning** English now.
- You **are not swimming** now.
- **Are you sleeping?**
- I **am sitting**.
- I **am not standing**.
- **Is he sitting or standing?**
- They **are reading** their books.
- They **are not watching** television.
- What **are you doing?**
- Why **aren't you doing** your homework?

## USE 2 Longer Actions in Progress Now



In English, "now" can mean: this second, today, this month, this year, this century, and so on. 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.

Examples: (All of these sentences can be said while eating dinner in a restaurant.)

- I **am studying** to become a doctor.
- I **am not studying** to become a dentist.
- I **am reading** the book *Tom Sawyer*.
- I **am not reading** any books right now.
- **Are you working** on any special projects at work?
- **Aren't you teaching** at the university now?

## USE 3 Near Future



Sometimes, speakers use the Present Continuous to indicate that something will or will not happen in the near future.

Examples:

- I **am meeting** some friends after work.
- I **am not going** to the party tonight.
- **Is he visiting** his parents next weekend?
- **Isn't he coming** with us tonight?

#### USE 4 Repetition and Irritation with "Always"



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."

Examples:

- She **is always coming** to class late.
- He **is constantly talking**. I wish he would shut up.
- I don't like them because they **are always complaining**.

#### REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs/ Mixed Verbs

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Present Continuous with these verbs, you must use Simple Present.

Examples:

- ~~She is loving~~ this chocolate ice cream. **Not Correct**
- ~~She loves~~ this chocolate ice cream. **Correct**

#### ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You **are still** watching TV.
- **Are you still** watching TV?

#### ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- Right now, Tom **is writing** the letter. *Active*
- Right now, the letter **is being written** by Tom. *Passive*

## PAST CONTINUOUS

### FORM

[was/were + present participle]

Examples:

- You **were studying** when she called.
- **Were you studying** when she called?
- You **were not studying** when she called.

### USE 1 Interrupted Action in the Past



Use the Past Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the past was interrupted. The interruption is usually a shorter action in the Simple Past. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

Examples:

- I **was watching** TV when she called.
- When the phone rang, she **was writing** a letter.
- While we **were having** the picnic, it started to rain.
- What **were you doing** when the earthquake started?
- I **was listening** to my iPod, so I didn't hear the fire alarm.
- You **were not listening** to me when I told you to turn the oven off.
- While John **was sleeping** last night, someone stole his car.
- Sammy **was waiting** for us when we got off the plane.
- While I **was writing** the email, the computer suddenly went off.
- A: What **were you doing** when you broke your leg?  
B: I **was snowboarding**.

### USE 2 Specific Time as an Interruption





USE 1, described above, the Past Continuous is interrupted by a shorter action in the Simple Past. However, you can also use a specific time as an interruption.

Examples:

- Last night at 6 PM, I **was eating** dinner.
- At midnight, we **were still driving** through the desert.
- Yesterday at this time, I **was sitting** at my desk at work.

## IMPORTANT

In the Simple Past, a specific time is used to show when an action began or finished. In the Past Continuous, a specific time only interrupts the action.

Examples:

- Last night at 6 PM, I **ate** dinner.  
*I started eating at 6 PM.*
- Last night at 6 PM, I **was eating** dinner.  
*I started earlier, and at 6 PM, I was in the process of eating dinner.*

## USE 3 Parallel Actions



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.

Examples:

- I **was studying** while he **was making** dinner.
- While Ellen **was reading**, Tim **was watching** television.
- **Were** you **listening** while he **was talking**?
- I **wasn't paying** attention while I **was writing** the letter, so I made several mistakes.
- What **were** you **doing** while you **were waiting**?
- Thomas **wasn't working**, and I **wasn't working** either.
- They **were eating** dinner, **discussing** their plans, and **having** a good time.

## USE 4 Atmosphere

In English, we often use a series of parallel actions to describe the atmosphere at a particular time in the past.

Example:

- When I walked into the office, several people **were** busily **typing**, some **were talking** on the phones, the boss **was yelling** directions, and customers **were waiting** to be helped. One customer **was yelling** at a secretary and **waving** his hands. Others **were complaining** to each other about the bad service.

## USE 5 Repetition and Irritation with "Always"



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."

Examples:

- She **was always coming** to class late.
- He **was constantly talking**. He annoyed everyone.
- I didn't like them because they **were always complaining**.

## While vs. When

Clauses are groups of words which have meaning, but are often not complete sentences. Some clauses begin with the word "when" such as "when she called" or "when it bit me." Other clauses begin with "while" such as "while she was sleeping" and "while he was surfing." When you talk about things in the past, "when" is most often followed by the verb tense Simple Past, whereas "while" is usually followed by Past Continuous. "While" expresses the idea of "during that time." Study the examples below. They have similar meanings, but they emphasize different parts of the sentence.

Examples:

- I was studying **when she called**.
- **While I was studying**, she called.

## REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs / Mixed Verbs

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Past Continuous with these verbs, you must use Simple Past.

Examples:

- Jane **was being** at my house when you arrived. **Not Correct**
- Jane **was** at my house when you arrived. **Correct**

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You were **just** studying when she called.
- Were you **just** studying when she called?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- The salesman **was helping** the customer when the thief came into the store. *Active*
- The customer **was being helped** by the salesman when the thief came into the store. *Passive*

## FUTURE CONTINUOUS

Future Continuous has two different forms: "will be doing " and "be going to be doing." Unlike Simple Future forms, Future Continuous forms are usually interchangeable.

### FORM Future Continuous with "Will"

[will be + present participle]

Examples:

- You **will be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.
- **Will you be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight?
- You **will not be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.

### FORM Future Continuous with "Be Going To "

[am/is/are + going to be + present participle]

Examples:

- You **are going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.
- **Are you going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight?
- You **are not going to be waiting** for her when her plane arrives tonight.

REMEMBER: It is possible to use either "will" or "be going to" to create the Future Continuous with little difference in meaning.

### Complete List of Future Continuous Forms

## USE 1 Interrupted Action in the Future



Use the Future Continuous to indicate that a longer action in the future will be interrupted by a shorter action in the future. Remember this can be a real interruption or just an interruption in time.

Examples:

- I **will be watching** TV when she *arrives* tonight.
- I **will be waiting** for you when your bus *arrives*.
- I **am going to be staying** at the Madison Hotel, if anything *happens* and you *need* to contact me.
- He **will be studying** at the library tonight, so he will not see Jennifer when she *arrives*.

Notice in the examples above that the interruptions (*marked in italics*) are in Simple Present rather than Simple Future. This is because the interruptions are in time clauses, and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses.

## USE 2 Specific Time as an Interruption in the Future



In USE 1, described above, the Future Continuous is interrupted by a short action in the future. In addition to using short actions as interruptions, you can also use a specific time as an interruption

Examples:

- Tonight at 6 PM, I **am going to be eating** dinner.  
*I will be in the process of eating dinner.*

- At midnight tonight, we **will still be driving** through the desert.  
*We will be in the process of driving through the desert.*

## REMEMBER

In the Simple Future, a specific time is used to show the time an action will begin or end. In the Future Continuous, a specific time interrupts the action.

Examples:

- Tonight at 6 PM, I **am going to eat** dinner.  
*I am going to start eating at 6 PM.*
- Tonight at 6 PM, I **am going to be eating** dinner.  
*I am going to start earlier and I will be in the process of eating dinner at 6 PM.*

## USE 3 Parallel Actions in the Future



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. The actions are parallel.

Examples:

- I **am going to be studying** and he **is going to be making** dinner.
- Tonight, they **will be eating** dinner, **discussing** their plans, and **having** a good time.
- While Ellen *is reading*, Tim **will be watching** television.  
*Notice "is reading" because of the time clause containing "while." (See Explanation Below)*

## USE 4 Atmosphere in the Future

In English, we often use a series of Parallel Actions to describe atmosphere at a specific point in the future.

Example:

- When I arrive at the party, everybody **is going to be celebrating**. Some **will be dancing**. Others **are going to be talking**. A few people **will be eating** pizza, and several people **are going to be drinking** beer. They always do the same thing.

## REMEMBER No Future in Time Clauses

Like all future tenses, the Future Continuous cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of Future Continuous, Present Continuous is used.

Examples:

- While I **am going to be finishing** my homework, she is going to make dinner. **Not Correct**
- While I **am finishing** my homework, she is going to make dinner. **Correct**

## AND REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs / Mixed Verbs

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Future Continuous with these verbs, you must use Simple Future.

Examples:

- Jane **will be being** at my house when you arrive. **Not Correct**
- Jane **will be** at my house when you arrive. **Correct**

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You will **still** be waiting for her when her plane arrives.
- Will you **still** be waiting for her when her plane arrives?
- You are **still** going to be waiting for her when her plane arrives.
- Are you **still** going to be waiting for her when her plane arrives?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- At 8:00 PM tonight, John **will be washing** the dishes. *Active*
- At 8:00 PM tonight, the dishes **will be being washed** by John. *Passive*
- At 8:00 PM tonight, John **is going to be washing** the dishes. *Active*
- At 8:00 PM tonight, the dishes **are going to be being washed** by John. *Passive*

NOTE: Passive forms of the Future Continuous are not common.

## Continuous Conditionals

Those of you who have studied Englishpage.com's [Verb Tense Tutorial](#) should be familiar with continuous verb tenses such as Present Continuous, Past Continuous, Future Continuous, Present Perfect Continuous, Past Perfect Continuous, and Future Perfect Continuous. The Verb Tense Tutorial gives you all the information you need to create continuous Real Conditional sentences. But many English learners are not aware of the fact that we can use continuousness in imaginary situations as well. Study the examples below to learn how to create continuous Unreal Conditional sentences that will make you sound like a native speaker.

## Present Unreal Conditional + Continuous

### FORM

If-clause: [were + present participle]

Result: [would be + present participle]

### USE

Present Unreal Conditional + Continuous is used to discuss imaginary situations which could be happening at this very moment.

Examples in the if-clause:

- If the sun **were shining**, I would go to the beach.  
*Unfortunately, it is raining so I can't go.*
- If Sam **were sitting** here, we would be able to ask him the question ourselves.  
*But Sam is not sitting here. He is somewhere else.*
- We **would be able to go sailing** if the wind **were blowing**.  
*But there is no wind, so we can't go sailing.*

Examples in the result:

- If I **were in Hawaii**, I **would be lying** on the beach.  
*But I am not in Hawaii.*
- If my grandfather **were here**, he **would be talking** about the war.  
*But he is not here.*
- I **would be rafting** down the Colorado River right now if my leg weren't broken.  
*But my leg is broken, so I am not there.*

# Past Unreal Conditional + Continuous

## FORM

If-clause: [had been + present participle]

Result: [would have been + present participle]

## USE

Past Unreal Conditional + Continuous is used to discuss imaginary situations happening at a very specific time in the past or over a period of time in the past.

Examples in the if-clause:

- If I **had been talking** to him when he said that, I would have punched him in the face.  
*But I wasn't talking to him when he said that.*
- If he **had been standing** near the house when the wall collapsed, it would have killed him.  
*Luckily, he moved away before the wall fell.*

Examples in the result:

- If you had gone to his house last night, he **would have been sitting** on his couch in front of the TV.  
*But you didn't go to his house, so you didn't see what he was doing.*
- If she had missed her train, he **would have been waiting** for her at the station for hours.  
*Luckily, she caught her train and he didn't have to wait.*

NOTICE that the Past Unreal Conditional + Continuous can be used like the Past Continuous in imaginary situations to emphasize interruptions or parallel actions in the past.

Examples in the if-clause:

- If James **had been crossing** the street when the car ran the red light, it would have hit him.
- If Tom **had been studying** while Becky was making dinner, he would have finished his homework early and they could have gone to the movie.

Examples in the result:

- If James hadn't stopped to tie his shoe, he **would have been crossing** the street when the car ran the red light.
- If you had gone to their house last night, Bob **would have been reading** the newspaper, Nancy **would have been talking** on the phone and the kids **would have been watching** TV. They always do the same things.



NOTICE that Past Unreal Conditional + Continuous can also be used like Present Perfect Continuous or Past Perfect Continuous in imaginary situations to emphasize a duration of time.

Examples in the if-clause:

- Scott said he had been studying Greek for more than five years. If he **had been studying** the language that long, I think he **would have been able** to interpret for us at the airport.
- Sarah claimed she had been waiting in the rain for more than twenty minutes by the time we arrived, but she wasn't even wet. If she **had been waiting** that long, I think she would have been totally drenched by the time we arrived.

Examples in the result:

- Terry's plane arrived ahead of schedule. If I hadn't decided to go to the airport early, she **would have been waiting** there for more than twenty minutes before I arrived.
- At the travel agency yesterday, I waited for more than an hour for somebody to help me. Finally, I got up and left. If I hadn't decided to leave, I **would have been sitting** there forever.

## Future Unreal Conditional + Continuous

### FORM

If-clause: [were + present participle]

Result: [would be + present participle]

### USE

Future Unreal Conditional + Continuous can be used like the Future Continuous in imaginary situations to emphasize interruptions or parallel actions in the future.

NOTICE The future form looks the same as the present form. The future is indicated with words such as "tomorrow," "next week" or "in a couple of days."

Examples in the if-clause:

- If I **were waiting** there next week when he gets off the plane, he would be totally surprised. *But I will not be waiting there, so he won't be surprised.*
- If he **were staying** in that hotel next week while the conference is being held, he might be able to meet some of the key speakers and tell them about our new product. *I don't think he will be able to stay at the hotel, so he won't be able to meet anybody there.*

Examples in the result:

- If I were able to go to the train station tonight to meet Sandra, I **would be standing** on the platform waiting for her when she arrives.  
*I won't be able to go to the train station, so I will not be standing there when she arrives.*
- If you went over to Paul's house after work, he **would probably be sitting** there at his computer surfing the Internet.  
*But you won't go over.*

## PRESENT PERFECT

### FORM

[has/have + past participle]

Examples:

- You **have** seen that movie many times.
- **Have** you **seen** that movie many times?
- You **have not seen** that movie many times.

### USE 1 Unspecified Time Before Now



We use the Present Perfect to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important. You **CANNOT** use the Present Perfect with specific time expressions such as: yesterday, one year ago, last week, when I was a child, when I lived in Japan, at that moment, that day, one day, etc. We **CAN** use the Present Perfect with unspecific expressions such as: ever, never, once, many times, several times, before, so far, already, yet, etc.

Examples:

- I **have seen** that movie twenty times.
- I think I **have met** him once before.
- There **have been** many earthquakes in California.
- People **have traveled** to the Moon.
- People **have not traveled** to Mars.
- **Have** you **read** the book yet?
- Nobody **has** ever **climbed** that mountain.

- A: **Has** there ever **been** a war in the United States?  
B: Yes, there **has been** a war in the United States.

## How Do You Actually Use the Present Perfect?

The concept of "unspecified time" can be very confusing to English learners. It is best to associate Present Perfect with the following topics:

### TOPIC 1 Experience

You can use the Present Perfect to describe your experience. It is like saying, "I have the experience of..." You can also use this tense to say that you have never had a certain experience. The Present Perfect is NOT used to describe a specific event.

Examples:

- I **have been** to France.  
*This sentence means that you have had the experience of being in France. Maybe you have been there once, or several times.*
- I **have been** to France three times.  
*You can add the number of times at the end of the sentence.*
- I **have never been** to France.  
*This sentence means that you have not had the experience of going to France.*
- I think I **have seen** that movie before.
- He **has never traveled** by train.
- Joan **has studied** two foreign languages.
- A: **Have** you ever **met** him?  
B: No, I **have not met** him.

### TOPIC 2 Change Over Time

We often use the Present Perfect to talk about change that has happened over a period of time.

Examples:

- You **have grown** since the last time I saw you.
- The government **has become** more interested in arts education.
- Japanese **has become** one of the most popular courses at the university since the Asian studies program was established.
- My English **has really improved** since I moved to Australia.

### TOPIC 3 Accomplishments

We often use the Present Perfect to list the accomplishments of individuals and humanity. You cannot mention a specific time.

Examples:

- Man **has walked** on the Moon.
- Our son **has learned** how to read.
- Doctors **have cured** many deadly diseases.
- Scientists **have split** the atom.

#### TOPIC 4 An Uncompleted Action You Are Expecting

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 to happen.

Examples:

- James **has not finished** his homework yet.
- Susan **hasn't mastered** Japanese, but she can communicate.
- Bill **has still not arrived**.
- The rain **hasn't stopped**.

#### TOPIC 5 Multiple Actions at Different Times

We also use the Present Perfect to talk about several different actions which have occurred in the past at different times. Present Perfect suggests the process is not complete and more actions are possible.

Examples:

- The army **has attacked** that city five times.
- I **have had** four quizzes and five tests so far this semester.
- We **have had** many major problems while working on this project.
- She **has talked** to several specialists about her problem, but nobody knows why she is sick.

#### Time Expressions with Present Perfect

When we use the Present Perfect it means that something has happened at some point in our lives before now. Remember, the exact time the action happened is not important.



Sometimes, we want to limit the time we are looking in for an experience. We can do this with expressions such as: in the last week, in the last year, this week, this month, so far, up to now, etc.



Examples:

- **Have you been** to Mexico **in the last year**?
- I **have seen** that movie six times **in the last month**.
- They **have had** three tests **in the last week**.
- She graduated from university less than three years ago. She **has worked** for three different companies **so far**.
- My car **has broken** down three times **this week**.

## NOTICE

"Last year" and "in the last year" are very different in meaning. "Last year" means the year before now, and it is considered a specific time which requires Simple Past. "In the last year" means from 365 days ago until now. It is not considered a specific time, so it requires Present Perfect.

Examples:

- I **went** to Mexico **last year**.  
*I went to Mexico in the calendar year before this one.*
- I **have been** to Mexico **in the last year**.  
*I have been to Mexico at least once at some point between 365 days ago and now.*

## USE 2 Duration From the Past Until Now (Non-Continuous Verbs)



With Non-Continuous Verbs and 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.

Examples:

- I **have had** a cold for two weeks.
- She **has been** in England for six months.
- Mary **has loved** chocolate since she was a little girl.

Although the above use of Present Perfect is normally limited to Non-Continuous Verbs and non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, the words "live," "work," "teach," and "study" are sometimes used in this way even though they are NOT Non-Continuous Verbs.

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You have **only** seen that movie one time.
- Have you **only** seen that movie one time?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- Many tourists **have visited** that castle. *Active*
- That castle **has been visited** by many tourists. *Passive*

## PAST PERFECT

### FORM

[had + past participle]

Examples:

- You **had studied** English before you moved to New York.
- **Had** you **studied** English before you moved to New York?
- You **had not studied** English before you moved to New York.

### USE 1 Completed Action Before Something in the Past



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.

Examples:

- I **had never seen** such a beautiful beach before I went to Kauai.
- I did not have any money because I **had lost** my wallet.
- Tony knew Istanbul so well because he **had visited** the city several times.

- **Had** Susan ever **studied** Thai before she moved to Thailand?
- She only understood the movie because she **had read** the book.
- Kristine **had** never **been** to an opera before last night.
- We were not able to get a hotel room because we **had not booked** in advance.
- A: **Had** you ever **visited** the U.S. before your trip in 2006?  
B: Yes, I **had been** to the U.S. once before.

## USE 2 Duration Before Something in the Past (Non-Continuous Verbs)



With Non-Continuous Verbs and some non-continuous 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.

Examples:

- We **had had** that car for ten years before it broke down.
- By the time Alex finished his studies, he **had been** in London for over eight years.
- They felt bad about selling the house because they **had owned** it for more than forty years.

Although the above use of Past Perfect is normally limited to Non-Continuous Verbs and non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, the words "live," "work," "teach," and "study" are sometimes used in this way even though they are NOT Non-Continuous Verbs.

## IMPORTANT Specific Times with the Past Perfect



Unlike with 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.

Example:

- She **had visited** her Japanese relatives once in 1993 before she moved in with them in 1996.

## MOREOVER

If the Past Perfect action did occur at a specific time, the Simple Past can be used instead of the Past Perfect when "before" or "after" is used in the sentence. The words "before" and "after" actually tell you what happens first, so the Past Perfect is optional. For this reason, both sentences below are correct.

Examples:

- She **had visited** her Japanese relatives once in 1993 before she moved in with them in 1996.
- She **visited** her Japanese relatives once in 1993 before she moved in with them in 1996.

## HOWEVER



If the Past Perfect is not referring to an action at a specific time, Past Perfect is not optional. Compare the examples below. Here Past Perfect is referring to a lack of experience rather than an action at a specific time. For this reason, Simple Past cannot be used.

Examples:

- She never **saw** a bear before she moved to Alaska. **Not Correct**
- She **had never seen** a bear before she moved to Alaska. **Correct**

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

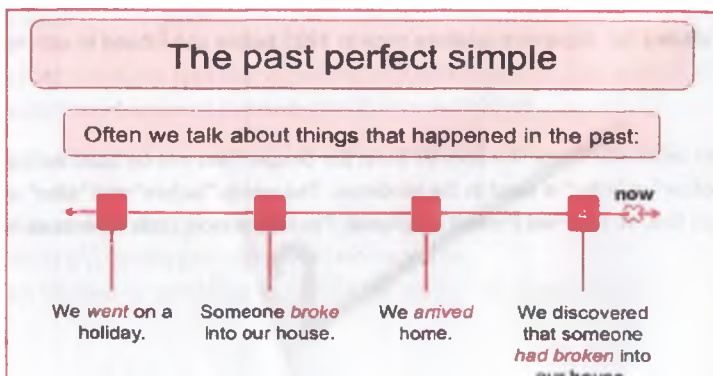
Examples:

- You had **previously** studied English before you moved to New York.
- Had you **previously** studied English before you moved to New York?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

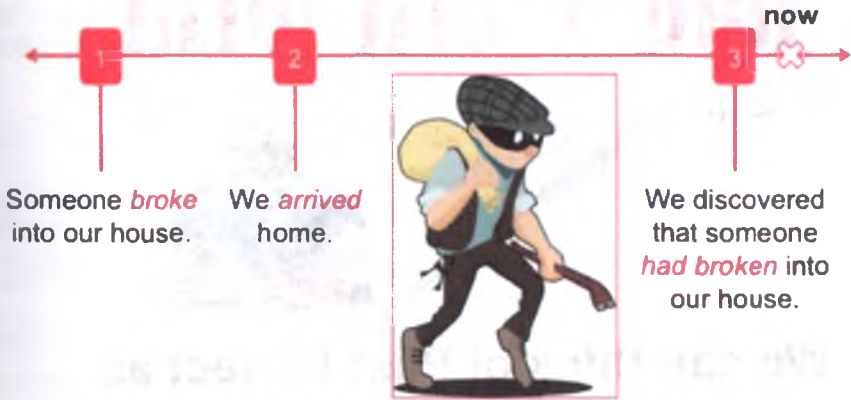
Examples:

- George **had repaired** many cars before he received his mechanic's license. *Active*
- Many cars **had been repaired** by George before he received his mechanic's license. *Passive*





# One event happened before another event



Here, we use the past perfect to show that *the first event finished before the second event happened.*

They **had been** married for 3 years **when they divorced.**



we make **past perfect** like this:

# had + 3rd form

E.g.

He **had eaten**



We can think of Past Perfect as  
**'the past of the past'.**

E.g.

I bent over **to** pick up **the phone** I **had** dropped.  
(past simple) (past perfect)



We use it when we want to talk about an earlier time.

\*when you see/hear Past Perfect – there is **always** a  
**Past Simple** or **Present Perfect** **nearby**. (the 'first' past.)

## FUTURE PERFECT

The **FUTURE PERFECT TENSE** indicates that an action will have been completed (finished or "perfected") at some point in the future. This tense is formed with "will" plus "have" plus the past participle of the verb (which can be either regular or irregular in form):  
**"I will have spent all my money by this time next year. I will have run successfully in three marathons if I can finish this one."**

Singular	Plural
I will have walked	we will have walked
you will have walked	you will have walked
he/she/it will have walked	they will have walked

Singular	Plural
I will have slept	we will have slept
you will have slept	you will have slept
he/she/it will have slept	they will have slept

## FORM

The future perfect is composed of two elements

**the simple future of the verb "to have" (will have) + the past participle of the main verb**

**Subject                      + will have                      + past participle of the main verb**

He                              will have                              finished.

I                                will have                                finished.

## TO ARRIVE, FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

**Affirmative                      Negative                      Interrogative                      Negative Interrogative**

I will have arrived                      I won't have arrived                      Will I have arrived?                      Won't I have arrived?

You will have arrived                      You won't have arrived                      Will you have arrived?                      Won't you have arrived?

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Negative Interrogative
He will have arrived	He won't have arrived	Will he have arrived?	Won't he have arrived?
We will have arrived	We won't have arrived	Will we have arrived?	Won't we have arrived?
They will have arrived	They won't have arrived	Will they have arrived?	Won't they have arrived?

## FUNCTION

The future perfect tense refers to a completed action in the future. When we use this tense we are projecting ourselves forward into the future and looking back at an action that will be completed some time later than now. It is most often used with a time expression.

### EXAMPLES

- I **will have been** here for six months on June 23rd.
- By the time you read this I **will have left**.
- **You will have finished** your report by this time next week.
- **Won't they have arrived** by 5:00?
- **Will you have eaten** when I pick you up?

The future perfect tense is only used in a few situations, but it's still good to know it. Here's how to make it.

The future perfect is made with the future simple of 'have' (will have) and the past participle. For regular past participles add 'ed' to the verb ('play' becomes 'played'). Here's the **positive**:

By six pm tonight:

- I will have finished this book
- You will have studied the English tenses
- She will have cooked dinner
- He will have arrived
- We will have met Julie
- It will have stopped raining
- They will have left Japan

To make the **question**, just put 'will' before the subject:

'Yes / no' questions:

By next year,

- will I have finished writing this book?
- will you have studied all the English verb tenses?
- will she have graduated?
- will he have got married?
- will it have got colder?
- will we have met your boyfriend?
- will they have left their jobs?

'Wh' questions:

- When will I have finished writing this book?
- Why will you have studied all the English verb tenses by tomorrow?
- When will she have been here three weeks?
- Why will he have got married before June?
- Why will it have got colder by May?
- How will we have met your boyfriend by tonight?
- When will they have left their jobs?

Future Perfect has two different forms: "will have done" and "be going to have done." Unlike Simple Future forms, Future Perfect forms are usually interchangeable.

### FORM Future Perfect with "Will"

[will have + past participle]

Examples:

- You **will have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.
- **Will you have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.?
- You **will not have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.

### FORM Future Perfect with "Be Going To"

[am/is/are + going to have + past participle]

Examples:

- You **are going to have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.
- **Are you going to have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.?
- You **are not going to have perfected** your English by the time you come back from the U.S.

NOTE: It is possible to use either "will" or "be going to" to create the Future Perfect with little or no difference in meaning.

### USE 1 Completed Action Before Something in the Future



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.

Examples:

- By next November, I **will have received** my promotion.
- By the time he *gets* home, she **is going to have cleaned** the entire house.
- I **am not going to have finished** this test by 3 o'clock.
- **Will** she **have learned** enough Chinese to communicate before she *moves* to Beijing?
- Sam **is probably going to have completed** the proposal by the time he *leaves* this afternoon.
- By the time I *finish* this course, I **will have taken** ten tests.
- How many countries **are you going to have visited** by the time you *turn* 50?

Notice in the examples above that the reference points (*marked in italics*) are in Simple Present rather than Simple Future. This is because the interruptions are in time clauses, and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses.

## USE 2 Duration Before Something in the Future (Non-Continuous Verbs)



With Non-Continuous Verbs and some non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Future Perfect to show that something will continue up until another action in the future.

Examples:

- I **will have been** in London for six months by the time I leave.
- By Monday, Susan **is going to have had** my book for a week.

Although the above use of Future Perfect is normally limited to Non-Continuous Verbs and non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, the words "live," "work," "teach," and "study" are sometimes used in this way even though they are NOT Non-Continuous Verbs.

## REMEMBER No Future in Time Clauses

Like all future forms, the Future Perfect cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of Future Perfect, Present Perfect is used.

Examples:

- I am going to see a movie when I **will have finished** my homework. **Not Correct**
- I am going to see a movie when I **have finished** my homework. **Correct**

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You will **only** have learned a few words.
- Will you **only** have learned a few words?
- You are **only** going to have learned a few words.
- Are you **only** going to have learned a few words?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- They **will have completed** the project before the deadline. *Active*
- The project **will have been completed** before the deadline. *Passive*
- They **are going to have completed** the project before the deadline. *Active*
- The project **is going to have been completed** before the deadline. *Passive*

## FUTURE PERFECT IN THE PAST

### Conditional Perfect

The conditional perfect is a grammatical construction that combines the conditional mood with perfect aspect. A typical example is the English *would have written*.<sup>[1]</sup> The conditional perfect is used to refer to a hypothetical, usually counterfactual, event or circumstance placed in the past, contingent on some other circumstance (again normally counterfactual, and also usually placed in the past). Like the present conditional (a form like *would write*), the conditional perfect typically appears in the *apodosis* (the main clause, expressing the consequent) in a conditional sentence.

In English, the conditional perfect is formed using *would have* together with the past participle of the main verb. The auxiliary *would* marks the conditional mood (it is occasionally replaced by *should* in the first person; see *shall and will*), while the auxiliary *have* (used in combination with the past participle) marks the perfect aspect (prior occurrence of the event in question). The conditional perfect is used chiefly in the main clause (apodosis) of "third conditional" (or sometimes "mixed conditional") sentences, as described under English conditional sentences. Examples:

- You **would have gotten** more money if you had worked harder.
- If we had run faster, we **would have arrived** earlier.
- If I were a woman, I **would have entered** the contest.

It is also possible for the auxiliary *would* to be replaced by the modals *should*, *could* or *might* to express appropriate modality in addition to conditionality.

Sometimes, in informal speech, the *would have* construction appears in the *if*-clause as well ("If we would have run faster, we would have arrived earlier"), but this is considered incorrect in formal speech and writing (see English conditional sentences: Use of will and would in condition clauses).

English also has a conditional perfect progressive (*would have been writing*). For more details on the usage of this and of the ordinary conditional perfect, see the relevant sections of the article Uses of English verb forms.

---

Conditional perfect is an English grammatical tense. It relates an action that someone would have done.

### Form

would + have + past participle

### Affirmative

I would have traveled around the world.

### Interrogative

Would you have traveled around the world?

### Negative

I wouldn't have stayed in my hometown.

### Use

- Conditional perfect is used for something that might have happened in the past.
- It is also used in the main clause of conditional sentences type in type III.

### Examples

- She **would have** met him if she had come earlier.
- You **would have got** more money, if you had worked harder.
- He **would have passed** the test, if he had studied.
- We **would have arrived** on time, if we had run faster.



## 1. Use of the *Conditional Perfect*

We use it for something that might have happened in the past.

We use it in the main clause in type III of the if clauses.

## 2. Form

would + have + past participle

past participle → (infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of the table of the irregular verbs)

## 3. Example

I would have phoned you if you hadn't switched your mobile off.

## Present Perfect Continuous

### FORM

[has/have + been + present participle]

Examples:

- You **have been waiting** here for two hours.
- **Have you been waiting** here for two hours?
- You **have not been waiting** here for two hours.

### USE 1 Duration from the Past Until Now



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.

Examples:

- They **have been talking** for the last hour.
- She **has been working** at that company for three years.
- What **have you been doing** for the last 30 minutes?

- James **has been teaching** at the university since June.
- We **have been waiting** here for over two hours!
- Why **has** Nancy **not been taking** her medicine for the last three days?

## USE 2 Recently, Lately



You can also use the Present Perfect Continuous WITHOUT a duration such as "for two weeks." Without the duration, the tense has a more general meaning of "lately." We often use the words "lately" or "recently" to emphasize this meaning.

Examples:

- Recently, I **have been feeling** really tired.
- She **has been watching** too much television lately.
- **Have you been exercising** lately?
- Mary **has been feeling** a little depressed.
- Lisa **has not been practicing** her English.
- What **have you been doing**?

## IMPORTANT

Remember that the Present Perfect Continuous has the meaning of "lately" or "recently." If you use the Present Perfect Continuous in a question such as "Have you been feeling alright?", it can suggest that the person looks sick or unhealthy. A question such as "Have you been smoking?" can suggest that you smell the smoke on the person. Using this tense in a question suggests you can see, smell, hear or feel the results of the action. It is possible to insult someone by using this tense incorrectly.

## REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs/ Mixed Verbs

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Present Perfect Continuous with these verbs, you must use Present Perfect.

Examples:

- Sam **has been having** his car for two years. **Not Correct**
- Sam **has had** his car for two years. **Correct**

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You have **only** been waiting here for one hour.
- Have you **only** been waiting here for one hour?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- Recently, John **has been doing** the work. *Active*
- Recently, the work **has been being done** by John. *Passive*

NOTE: Present Perfect Continuous is less commonly used in its passive form.

## Past Perfect Continuous

### FORM

[had been + present participle]

Examples:

- You **had been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.
- **Had you been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived?
- You **had not been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.

### USE 1 Duration Before Something in the Past



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, it stops before something else in the past.

Examples:

- They **had been talking** for over an hour before Tony arrived.
- She **had been working** at that company for three years when it went out of business.
- How long **had you been waiting** to get on the bus?
- Mike wanted to sit down because he **had been standing** all day at work.

- James **had been teaching** at the university for more than a year before he left for Asia.
- A: How long **had you been studying** Turkish before you moved to Ankara?  
B: I **had not been studying** Turkish very long.

## USE 2 Cause of Something in the Past



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

Examples:

- Jason was tired because he **had been jogging**.
- Sam gained weight because he **had been overeating**.
- Betty failed the final test because she **had not been attending** class.

## Past Continuous vs. Past Perfect Continuous

If you do not include a duration such as "for five minutes," "for two weeks" or "since Friday," many English speakers choose to use the Past Continuous rather than the Past Perfect Continuous. Be careful because this can change the meaning of the sentence. Past Continuous emphasizes interrupted actions, whereas Past Perfect Continuous emphasizes a duration of time before something in the past. Study the examples below to understand the difference.

Examples:

- He was tired because he **was exercising** so hard.  
*This sentence emphasizes that he was tired because he was exercising at that exact moment.*
- He was tired because he **had been exercising** so hard.  
*This sentence emphasizes that he was tired because he had been exercising over a period of time. It is possible that he was still exercising at that moment OR that he had just finished.*

## REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs / Mixed Verbs

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Past Perfect Continuous with these verbs, you must use Past Perfect.

Examples:

- The motorcycle **had been belonging** to George for years before Tina bought it. **Not Correct**
- The motorcycle **had belonged** to George for years before Tina bought it. **Correct**

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You had **only** been waiting there for a few minutes when she arrived.
- Had you **only** been waiting there for a few minutes when she arrived?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- Chef Jones had **been preparing** the restaurant's fantastic dinners for two years before he moved to Paris. *Active*
- The restaurant's fantastic dinners **had been being prepared** by Chef Jones for two years before he moved to Paris. *Passive*

NOTE: Passive forms of the Past Perfect Continuous are not common.

## Future Perfect Continuous

Future Perfect Continuous has two different forms: "will have been doing " and "be going to have been doing." Unlike Simple Future forms, Future Perfect Continuous forms are usually interchangeable.

### FORM Future Perfect Continuous with "Will"

[will have been + present participle]

Examples:

- You **will have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.
- **Will you have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives?
- You **will not have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.

### FORM Future Perfect Continuous with "Be Going To"

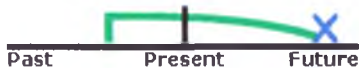
[am/is/are + going to have been + present participle]

Examples:

- You **are going to have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.
- **Are you going to have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives?
- You **are not going to have been waiting** for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.

NOTE: It is possible to use either "will" or "be going to" to create the Future Perfect Continuous with little or no difference in meaning.

## USE 1 Duration Before Something in the Future



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, with Future Perfect Continuous, the duration stops at or before a reference point in the future.

Examples:

- They **will have been talking** for over an hour by the time Thomas *arrives*.
- She **is going to have been working** at that company for three years when it finally *closes*.
- James **will have been teaching** at the university for more than a year by the time he *leaves* for Asia.
- How long **will you have been studying** when you *graduate*?
- We **are going to have been driving** for over three days straight when we *get* to Anchorage.
- A: When you *finish* your English course, **will you have been living** in New Zealand for over a year?  
B: No, I **will not have been living** here that long.

Notice in the examples above that the reference points (*marked in italics*) are in Simple Present rather than Simple Future. This is because these future events are in time clauses, and you cannot use future tenses in time clauses.

## USE 2 Cause of Something in the Future



Using the Future Perfect Continuous before another action in the future is a good way to show cause and effect.

Examples:

- Jason will be tired when he gets home because he **will have been jogging** for over an hour.
- Claudia's English will be perfect when she returns to Germany because she **is going to have been studying** English in the United States for over two years.

## Future Continuous vs. Future Perfect Continuous

If you do not include a duration such as "for five minutes," "for two weeks" or "since Friday," many English speakers choose to use the Future Continuous rather than the Future Perfect Continuous. Be careful because this can change the meaning of the sentence. Future Continuous emphasizes interrupted actions, whereas Future Perfect Continuous emphasizes a duration of time before something in the future. Study the examples below to understand the difference.

Examples:

- He will be tired because he **will be exercising** so hard.  
*This sentence emphasizes that he will be tired because he will be exercising at that exact moment in the future.*
- He will be tired because he **will have been exercising** so hard.  
*This sentence emphasizes that he will be tired because he will have been exercising for a period of time. It is possible that he will still be exercising at that moment OR that he will just have finished.*

## REMEMBER No Future in Time Clauses

In all future forms, the Future Perfect Continuous cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of Future Perfect Continuous, Present Perfect Continuous is used.

Examples:

- You won't get a promotion until you **will have been working** here as long as Tim. **Not Correct**
- You won't get a promotion until you **have been working** here as long as Tim. **Correct**

## AND REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs / Mixed Verbs

It is important to remember that Non-Continuous Verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for Mixed Verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using Future Perfect Continuous with these verbs, you must use Future Perfect.

Examples:

- Ned **will have been having** his driver's license for over two years. **Not Correct**
- Ned **will have had** his driver's license for over two years. **Correct**

## ADVERB PLACEMENT

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

- You will **only** have been waiting for a few minutes when her plane arrives.
- Will you **only** have been waiting for a few minutes when her plane arrives?
  
- You are **only** going to have been waiting for a few minutes when her plane arrives.
- Are you **only** going to have been waiting for a few minutes when her plane arrives?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

Examples:

- The famous artist **will have been painting** the mural for over six months by the time it is finished. *Active*
- The mural **will have been being painted** by the famous artist for over six months by the time it is finished. *Passive*
  
- The famous artist **is going to have been painting** the mural for over six months by the time it is finished. *Active*
- The mural **is going to have been being painted** by the famous artist for over six months by the time it is finished. *Passive*

NOTE: Passive forms of the Future Perfect Continuous are not common.

## FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS IN THE PAST

### . Perfect conditional, continuous - Form

This tense is composed of two elements: the perfect conditional of the verb 'to be' (*would have been*) + the present participle (*base+ing*).

<b>Subject</b>	<b>would have been</b>	<b>base+ing</b>
I	would have been	sitting
We	would have been	swimming
<b>Affirmative</b>		
I	would have been	studying.
<b>Negative</b>		
You	wouldn't have been	living.
<b>Interrogative</b>		



Would we have been travelling?

### Interrogative negative

Wouldn't it have been working?

## Examples to work, Past continuous conditional

### Affirmative

I would have been working  
You would have been working  
He would have been working  
We would have been working  
You would have been working  
They would have been working

### Interrogative

Would I have been working?  
Would you have been working?  
Would he have been working?  
Would we have been working?  
Would you have been working?  
Would they have been working?

### Negative

I wouldn't have been working  
You wouldn't have been working.  
She wouldn't have been working  
We wouldn't have been working  
You wouldn't have been working  
They wouldn't have been working

### Interrogative negative

Wouldn't I have been working?  
Wouldn't you have been working?  
Wouldn't she have been working?  
Wouldn't we have been working?  
Wouldn't you have been working?  
Wouldn't they have been working?

## 1. Function

This tense can be used in Type 3 conditional sentences. It refers to the **unfulfilled result** of the action in the **if-clause**, and expresses this result as an **unfinished or continuous action**. Again, there is always an unspoken "but..." phrase:

### Examples

- If the weather had been better (but it wasn't), **I'd have been sitting** in the garden when he arrived (but I wasn't and so I didn't see him).
- If she hadn't got a job in London (but she did), she **would have been working** in Paris (but she wasn't).
- If I'd had a ball I **would have been playing** football.
- If I'd had any money **I'd have been drinking** with my friends in the pub that night.
- If I had known it was dangerous I **wouldn't have been climbing** that cliff.
- She **wouldn't have been wearing** a seat-belt if her father hadn't told her to.

## FORM

In type 3 conditional sentences, the perfect form of the present conditional may be used.

If clause (condition)

Main clause (result)

If + past perfect

perfect continuous conditional

**If clause (condition)****Main clause (result)**

If this thing had happened

that thing would have been happening.

## FUNCTION

The perfect continuous conditional can be used in type 3 conditional sentences. It refers to the unfulfilled result of the action in the if-clause, and expresses this result as an unfinished or continuous action.

### EXAMPLES

- if the weather had been better (but it wasn't), I'd have been sitting in the garden when he arrived (but I wasn't).
- If she hadn't got a job in London (but she did), she would have been working in Paris (but she wasn't).
- If I had had a ball I would have been playing football.
- If I had known it was dangerous I wouldn't have been climbing that cliff.

The perfect continuous conditional tense of any verb is composed of four elements:

**would + have + been + present participle**

The present participle is formed by taking the base form of the verb and adding the -ing ending.

Subject	+ would	+ have	+ been	+ present participle
He	would	have	been	staying
They	would	have	been	going

### TO WORK: PERFECT CONTINUOUS CONDITIONAL

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Interrogative Negative
I would have been living	I wouldn't have been living	Would I have been living?	Wouldn't I have been living?
You would have been living	You wouldn't have been living	Would you have been living?	Wouldn't you have been living?
He would have been living	He wouldn't have been living	Would he have been living?	Wouldn't he have been living?
She would have been living	She wouldn't have been	Would she have	Wouldn't she have been

**Affirmative**

**Negative**

**Interrogative**

**Interrogative Negative**

living

been living?

living?

**We would have been living**

**We wouldn't have been living**

**Would we have been living?**

**Wouldn't we have been living?**

**They would have been living**

**They wouldn't have been living**

**Would they have been living?**

**Wouldn't they have been living?**

## REFERENCES

English in Use by Raymond Murphy  
'English for you' interactive Lessons by Molly Stone

Bybee, Joan L., Revere Perkins, and William Pagliuca (1994) *The Evolution of Grammar: Tense, Aspect, and Modality in the Languages of the World*. University of Chicago Press.

*Huddleston, Rodney; Pullum, Geoffrey K. (15 April 2002). The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-43146-0. Retrieved 10 February 2015. Law summary (PDF) (10 February 2015).*

<https://www.englishpage.com>

<https://www.wikipedia.org/>

[https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Русская\\_Википедия](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Русская_Википедия)

## Review

This grammar book, for the first year students of vocational colleges and academic lyceums, combines English tenses and different examples in a single volume.

- The book provides comprehensive coverage in simple language of the problems first year students encounter
- It is designed for self-study: learners choose and study those points which they find difficult in speaking and writing
- Formation of tenses, irregular verbs, passive forms of tenses and pictures are illustrated.

This is a unique book which is devoted to only verb tenses, and it is really excellent as it is lively, reliable, and attractively produced.

**Qosimjon Siddiqov,**  
**Docent, candidate of philological sciences**  
**Head of "English" department of NSU**

## Review

The book contains important and necessary information on modern English verb tenses and helps a reader to thoroughly understand the tenses. By using this book a student learns how to make sentences in different tenses.

The advantage of the book is that it studies the tenses as a separate section with different examples in both active and passive voices.

Learner can get information on auxiliary verbs, linking verbs and main verbs by referring the initial pages of the book. It includes vivid examples and comments as well.

The book stimulates interests in learning English and its tenses and it can highly be recommended for publishing.

**Nurillokhon Umarchonov,**  
**Head of international relations department of NIET**  
**Alumni of Birmingham University, UK**

S  
P  
E  
C  
I  
F  
I  
C  
  
T  
I  
M  
E

### SIMPLE



She **worked**  
yesterday.

She **works**  
every day.

She **will work**  
again tomorrow.

### PROGRESSIVE



She **was working**  
at 9 AM this morning.

She **is working**  
right now.

She **will be working**  
at 6 PM tonight.

U  
N  
S  
P  
E  
C  
I  
F  
I  
C  
  
T  
I  
M  
E

### PERFECT

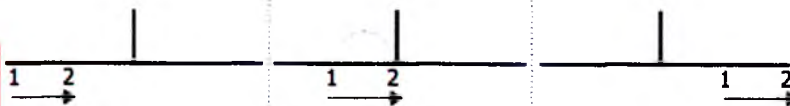


When she retired,  
she **had worked**  
all her life.

So far,  
she **has worked**  
all her life.

When she retires,  
she **will have worked**  
all her life.

### PERFECT PROGRESSIVE



When she retired,  
she **had been working**  
for 40 years.

She **has been working**  
for 40 years.

When she retires, she  
**will have been working**  
for 40 years.