

PRESENT TENSES:

Present simple

Personnel pronoun + base form = present simple

The present simple (or simple present) tense is a tense that is generally used in the following cases:

*Actions that happen at the moment.

e.g., He crosses the street.

*Habits.

e.g., I wake up every morning at seven o'clock.

*Repeated actions.

e.g., She misses the bus every time.

*General truths.

e.g., Earth revolves around the sun.

*To give instructions.

e.g., To go to the park, you take the first turn, then you walk straight forward.

*To express fixed arrangements.

e.g., The course starts at 2 p.m.

Present perfect

Personnel pronoun + have/has + past participle = present perfect

The present perfect tense is used to indicate a link between the past and the present, it is used in the following cases:

*An action that happened in the past and is continuing to happen.

e.g., He has lived in London since 2018.

*An action that happened during a period in the past and has not finished yet.

e.g., The national team has played twice this month. (i.e., the month is not over yet)

*An action in an unspecified period between the past and the present (repeated actions, personnel experience, changes over time, achievements).

e.g., I have visited Paris multiple times.

*An action completed in the very recent past.

e.g., We have just finished our homework.

*The result of the action is more important than -the time of- the action itself.

e.g., I have read "*The crime and the punishment*".

Present continuous

Personnel pronoun + am/are/is + present participle = present continuous

The present continuous, also referred to as *present progressive*, is a tense that is used very often in English, generally to describe actions that are occurring or going to happen in the near future. The present continuous is a verb tense that denotes that an action is happening now, frequently, or many times in the future, as if it adds energy to the action.

The present continuous should not be used with stative verbs that do not denote changes. Stative verbs include verbs of emotion, opinion, thoughts, possession. It is important to note that some verbs can be static as well as dynamic, such as: to be, to think.

e.g., They ~~are liking~~ **like** cake more than pizza.

The present continuous tense is used in the following cases:

*Action that are (or are not) occurring now.

e.g., You are studying English right now.

*Actions which take long time to finish and are in progress *currently*. By *currently* we mean current moment, day, month, century...

e.g., He is studying to become a doctor.

*Actions that will (or will not) occur in the future.

e.g., I am visiting my friend next month.

*Repetitive, irritative actions which are generally expressed by “always”, “constantly”, “permanently” ...

e.g., Some students are always complaining about study, but aren't serious enough.

Present perfect continuous

Personnel pronoun + have/has been + present participle = present perfect continuous

The present perfect continuous tense is used to describe an action that started in the past and last -or continued until the present moment, with emphasis on the duration of the action. Similarly to the present continuous, the present perfect continuous should not be used with stative verbs.

This tense is used in the following cases:

*Duration of a continuous action from the past until the present.

e.g., During more than three years, I have been preparing my PhD.

Or: They have been watching TV for the last hour.

*Actions/events happening recently.

e.g., Lately, she has been reading more books.

*Using “since” and “for”.

e.g., He has been living in London since 2018.

Or: He has been living in London for five years.

PAST TENSES:

Past simple

Personnel pronoun + -ed form = past simple

The simple past is used in the following case:

*Actions that happened/completed in the past

e.g., She ate a pizza slice.

*When details of time, place... are given.

e.g., We met last Sunday at 6 p.m.

Or: I watched a nice film last month.

*Past state.

e.g., The last Classico was the event of its week.

*An event with indefinite period of occurrence/duration in the past.

e.g., Soldiers used to fight with swords centuries ago.

Past perfect

Personnel pronoun + had + past participle = past perfect

The past perfect tense is used in the following cases:

*To indicate that actions took place (i.e., started and finished) or events of duration before some point in the past.

e.g., He had expressed his regret many times.

*To indicate actions that took place before the start of other actions in the past.

e.g., She had forgotten the presents until the cashier reminded her.

Or: I had never tasted a sushi before I went to that Japanese restaurant.

*Conditional statements (for third type conditional).

e.g., If the students had worked harder, they would have had better grades.

*Reported speech.

e.g., The teacher had asked the students to work hard.

Or: The news had said it would rain today.

*Express wishes, regrets... in the past.

e.g., He wished he had saved some money.

Note: Generally, the past perfect comes with adverbs like: already, still, yet, just...

Past continuous

Personnel pronoun + was/were + present participle = past continuous

The past continuous tense is used to express that a continuous action/event was happening at some point in time in the past but have now finished.

The use of the past continuous are the following:

*Interrupted actions in the past.

e.g., I was going back home as it rained.

*Interruption at a specific time.

e.g., Yesterday at 9 p.m. I was watching a football game.

*Parallel, simultaneous actions and events.

e.g., She was listening to music while doing the dishes.

*Description of the atmosphere.

e.g., At the mall, women were shopping, children were playing, and some people were having fast food.

*With “always” and “constantly”.

e.g., He was constantly being absent.

Past perfect continuous

Personnel pronoun + had been + present participle = past perfect continuous

The past perfect continuous tense is used to express that a continuous action/event was happening at some point in time in the past up to some other point in the past. Its uses are the following:

*Duration of an event in the past until another point in the past or another event.

e.g., She had been waiting for half an hour before her friend arrived.

*Cause and consequence in the past.

e.g., I was exhausted because I had been training.

Note: When the duration (e.g., for ten days) is not included, many English speakers prefer to use the past continuous. The past continuous focuses on the action, while the past perfect continuous focuses on the duration of the action. Also, when using an adverb, it is placed between “had” and “been” in the sentence.

e.g., The children had only waited for five minutes before their turn to play came.

References:

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List of Irregular Verbs

Base form - past simple - past participle

Exercises + pdf worksheets:

www.e-grammar.org/irregular-verbs/

abide	abided/abode	abided/abode
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awaked/awoke	awoken
be	was/were	been
bear	bore	born
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
befall	befell	befallen
beget	begot	begotten
begin	began	begun
behold	beheld	beheld
bend	bent	bent
bereave	bereft	bereft
beseech	besought	besought
beset	beset	beset
bespeak	bespoke	bespoken
bestride	bestrode	bestriden
bet	bet	bet
bid	bade/bid	bidden/bid
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast(ed)	broadcast(ed)
build	built	built
burn	burned/burnt	burned/burnt
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
can	could	
cast	cast	cast
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
cling	clung	clung
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamed/dreamt	dreamed/dreamt

drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
dwell	dwelled/dwelt	dwelled/dwelt
eat	ate	eaten
interweave	interwove	interwoven
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbad(e)	forbidden
forecast	forecast(ed)	forecast(ed)
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forsake	forsook	forsaken
foresee	foresaw	foreseen
foretell	foretold	foretold
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown
hang	hanged/hung	hanged/hung
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt	knelt
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
lean	leaned/leant	leaned/leant
leap	leapt	leapt
learn	learned/learnt	learned/learnt
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain

www.e-grammar.org/irregular-verbs-list/

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lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
mistake	mistook	mistaken
overhear	overheard	overheard
oversleep	overslept	overslept
put	put	put
read	read	read
rend	rended/rent	rended/rent
rid	rid	rid
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
shake	shook	shaken
shed	shed	shed
shine	shone	shone
shit	shit/shat	shit/shat
shoot	shot	shot
show	showed	shown
shrink	shrank	shrunk
shrive	shrove	shriven
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat
slay	slew	slain
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
slink	slunk	slunk
slit	slit	slit
smell	smelled/smelt	smelled/smelt
smite	smote	smitten
speak	spoke	spoken
speed	speeded/sped	speeded/sped
spend	spent	spent

spin	spun	spun
spit	spat	spat
split	split	split
spoil	spoiled/spoilt	spoiled/spoilt
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
stink	stank	stunk
stride	strode	stridden
strike	struck	struck
string	strung	strung
strive	strove	striven
swear	swore	sworn
sweep	swept	swept
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
throw	threw	thrown
thrust	thrust	thrust
tread	treaded/trod	trodden
understand	understood	understood
undertake	undertook	undertaken
undo	undid	undone
upset	upset	upset
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
weave	wove	woven
weep	wept	wept
win	won	won
wind	wound	wound
withdraw	withdrew	withdrawn
withstand	withstood	withstood
wring	wrung	wrung
write	wrote	written

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