



TENSE REVIEW



PRESENT TENSES

FORM

PRESENT SIMPLE

- I play tennis.
- Do you play tennis?
- I don't play tennis.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

- He is sleeping.
- Is he sleeping?
- He isn't sleeping.

USE

PRESENT SIMPLE

- Facts or generalizations
- Permanent situations
- Habits or everyday actions
- Short actions now
- Timetables
- Time clauses
- First and zero conditionals

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

- Actions happening now
- Temporary situations
- Temporary or new habits
- Irregular or annoying habits
- Definite future arrangements



PAST TENSES

FORM

PAST SIMPLE

- He cooked dinner.
- Did he cook dinner?
- He didn't cook dinner.

PAST CONTINUOUS

- They were watching a movie.
- Were they watching a movie?
- They weren't watching a movie.

USE

PAST SIMPLE

- Finished actions in the past
- Stories or lists of events
- Unreal or imaginary present / future

PAST CONTINUOUS

- An action in the past that overlaps another
- Background information
- Temporary habits
- Emphasis on duration



PERFECT TENSES

FORM

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

- They have watched that movie many times.
- Have they watched that movie many times?
- They haven't watched that movie many times.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- You have been waiting here for two hours.
- Have you been waiting here for two hours?
- You haven't been waiting here for two hours.

USE

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

- Unfinished actions
- Life experience
- When using an unfinished time word
- Result in the present
- Recent events

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- Unfinished actions
- Temporary habits or situations
- Recent action with present result

FORM

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

- The film had started before we arrived.
- Had the film started before we arrived?
- The film hadn't started before we arrived.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- You had been waiting there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.
- You hadn't 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?

USE

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

- A finished action before a second point in the
- Actions that started in the past and continued up to another point in the
- Unreal or imaginary things in the past

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- An action that started in the past and continued up to another action or time in the past.
- An action that finished just before another one



FUTURE TENSES

USE

FUTURE SIMPLE

- Predictions (future fact)
- Decisions (at the moment of speaking), spontaneous decisions

GOING TO FUTURE

- Predictions (based on present fact)
- Decisions (before the moment of speaking), plans for the future

FUTURE CONTINUOUS

FORM

- At 10am tomorrow, you will be sleeping.
- Will you be sleeping at 10am tomorrow?
- At 10am tomorrow, you won't be sleeping.

USE

- Overlapping actions
 - I'll be waiting when you arrive.
- Future expectations
 - The Government will be making a statement later.

FUTURE PERFECT

FORM

- By 6pm tonight, I will have finished this book.
- Will you have finished this book by 6pm tonight?
- I won't have finished this book by 6pm tonight.

USE

- To say *how long*
 - When we get married, I'll have known Robert for four years.
- To say something finishes before a certain time in the future, usually with *by*
 - By the time I'm sixty, I will have retired.

FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM

- In April, she will have been teaching for 12 years.
- Will she have been teaching for 12 years in April?
- In April, she won't have been teaching for 12 years.

USE

- To say *how long*
 - By the time you arrive, I'll have been cooking for hours!
- To say something finishes just before another action or time
 - When I see you, I'll have been studying, so I'll be tired.



PASSIVE

FORM: be + past participle

TENSE	PASSIVE
Present Simple	A letter is written.
Present Continuous	A letter is being written.
Present Perfect	A letter has been written.
Past Simple	A letter was written.
Past Continuous	A letter was being written.
Past Perfect	A letter had been written.
Future	A letter will be written.



EXERCISES

EXERCISES

- https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises_list/zeitformen.htm#going_to_future
- https://www.english-4u.de/tenses_exercises.html
- <https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/grammar-exercises.html>