

GRAMMARBANK

VERB TENSES

E-BOOK

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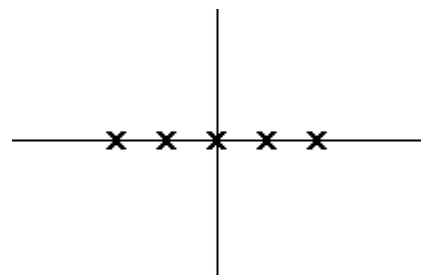
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Simple Present Tense

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I know.	I don't (do not) know.	Do I know?
YOU	You know.	You don't (do not) know.	Do you know?
WE	We know.	We don't (do not) know.	Do we know?
THEY	They know.	They don't (do not) know.	Do they know?
HE/SHE/IT	He knows .	He doesn't (does not) know.	Does he know?

Main Use:

We use simple present tense to talk about things that we always do or situations that occur in general.



- ⇒ The sun sets in the West.
- ⇒ The water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
- ⇒ I go to school every week.
- ⇒ The fact that they **don't** visit us **doesn't** mean that they don't love us.

Simple present to talk about habits/hobbies

- ⇒ Every June we go to Florida for a vacation.
- ⇒ I brush my teeth every morning.
- ⇒ Bus comes at 3 o'clock.

Some Grammar:

RULE 1:

In affirmative form add **-s** to the verbs after the subjects he/she/it.

Examples:

- ⇒ Celine loves**s** me.
- ⇒ He manages**s** well.
- ⇒ My sister reads**s** a lot.

RULE 2:

In affirmative form add **-es** to the verbs ending in **-sh, -ch, -ss, -o, -x** after the subjects he/she/it.

Examples:

- ⇒ John wash**es** his face.
- ⇒ Sarah watch**es** TV.
- ⇒ The little kid kiss**es** her mother.
- ⇒ He go**es** to the cinema.

RULE 3:

In affirmative form remove **-y** and add **-ies** to the verbs ending in consonant + **y** after the subjects he/she/it.

Examples:

- ⇒ Daniel studi**es** English. (the verb “study” ends in “d” which is a consonant + y)
- ⇒ That baby cri**es** a lot. (the verb “cry” ends in “r” which is a consonant + y)

Note: in question and negative forms, we don't use the three rules above, instead; we just use the bare forms of the verbs.

Examples:

- ⇒ He doesn't **go** to school. (**not** he doesn't **goes**)
- ⇒ Does Tom **miss** his family? (**not** does Tom **misses**)

Some time expressions used with simple present tense:

always	almost(nearly) always	usually	often
normally	generally	sometimes	occasionally
hardly	hardly ever	scarcely	Barely
rarely	Everyday/week/month	seldom	never

Note: the adverbs with negative meanings turn the sentences into negative:

Examples:

- ⇒ I **hardly ever** visit my uncle. (I don't visit my uncle.)
- ⇒ The cheetah **rarely** likes to hunt. (they don't hunt...)

When we use negative adverbs in the beginning, we use inversion.

Examples:

- ⇒ Seldom **does** she visit her uncle. (she seldom visits her uncle).
- ⇒ Barely **did** she work with us. (she barely worked with us.)

We can use these adverbs with simple past tense as well.

- ⇒ I often **played** soccer when I was in high school.
- ⇒ I rarely **went** to the cinema when I was in London.

We can use this tense with a future meaning.

- ⇒ The deadline for new registration finish**es** next week.
- ⇒ The train arriv**es** in ten minutes.

When telling a story or a joke, we can use simple present.

- ⇒ The man open**s** the drawer and take**s** out a gun...
- ⇒ A bus stop**s** outside the school and a little boy get**s** on it slowly.

After time clauses “when, while, after, before, as soon as, as, until, by the time, etc.” we use simple present instead of future tense.

Example:

- ⇒ When I **see** him tomorrow I’ll talk to him.
 ~~will see~~
 ~~am going to see~~
 ~~would see~~

We use the present simple rather than the present continuous with stative verbs:

- ⇒ I **agree** with you. (not I am agreeing with you)
- ⇒ I **like** this hamburger. (not I am liking this hamburger)

Some common stative verbs are:

Agree	Like
Believe	Look
Understand	Own
Cost	Prefer
Disagree	Promise
Dislike	Realize
Feel	Recognize
Forget	Regret
Forgive	Resemble
Love	See
Know	Suppose
Notice	Want
Hate	Wish
Hope	

I promise you. (I ~~am promising~~ you)

I love you. (I ~~am loving~~ you)

I want a cupcake. (I ~~am wanting~~ a cupcake)

Attention:

Some of these words are used with present progressive tense, but they have different meanings.

You are looking at me. Correct

You are looking beautiful. Incorrect

You look beautiful. Correct

I see that girl. (That girl is visible to me right now)

I am seeing that girl. (I am dating that girl)

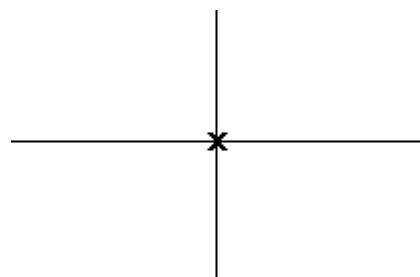
Saying "I am seeing you" for the first meaning of 'to see' is incorrect.

Present Continuous (Progressive) Tense

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I am eating.	I am not eating.	am I eating?
YOU	You are eating.	You aren't (are not) eating.	are you eating?
WE	We are eating.	We aren't (are not) eating.	are we eating?
THEY	They are eating.	They aren't (are not) eating.	are they eating?
HE/SHE/IT	It is eating.	It isn't (is not) eating.	Is it eating?

Main Use:

When talking about actions or events that happen at the time of speaking:



Examples:

- ⇒ I **am** sleeping now.
- ⇒ **Are** you waiting for me here?
- ⇒ They **are** watching TV at the moment.
- ⇒ Look! She **is** coming back.

Rule:

We use verb "to be" + "Verb-ing"

Spelling rule:

When we don't pronounce the last "e" of a verb (when it's not strong), we drop it.

Example:

- ⇒ I **am** writing an e-mail right now. (the last letter "e" is not pronounced.)

Some time expressions used with present progressive tense:

Now	right now	at the moment	at present
currently	today	tonight	this week

Note: sometimes the action may not be going on at the time of speaking.

⇒ I **am reading** a novel by John Steinback. (not right now, but can be nowadays)

Some Other Uses of Present Continuous:

To indicate temporary situations

Example:

⇒ I **am living** in an apartment till I find an affordable house. (temporary situation)

When we complain about repeated actions:

Examples:

⇒ You **are** always **losing** your temper.

⇒ She **is** constantly **parking** her car in front of my house.

To talk about changes:

Examples:

⇒ Every day more and more people **are visiting** our website.

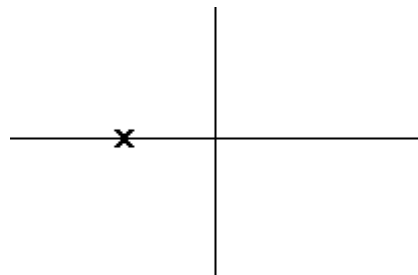
⇒ You **are being** rude now.

Simple Past Tense

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I walk ed .	I didn't (did not) walk .	did I walk?
YOU	You walk ed .	You didn't (did not) walk.	Did you walk?
WE	We walk ed .	We didn't (did not) walk.	Did we walk?
THEY	They walk ed .	They didn't (did not) walk.	Did they walk?
HE/SHE/IT	He walk ed .	He didn't (did not) walk.	Did he walk?

Main Use:

We use simple past tense when talking about an action or an event that started and ended at a specific time in the past.



Examples:

- ⇒ I **saw** the English teacher a few hours ago.
- ⇒ I **was** born in 1981.
- ⇒ When I **got** into the room, I **found** Jessy crying.

Some Grammar:

We use the second form of the verbs (V2) with the past simple.

Rule 1:

In affirmative form add **-ed** to the verb.

Examples:

- ⇒ They walk**ed** across the bridge carefully.
- ⇒ The class start**ed** three hours ago.
- ⇒ He fix**ed** the fences.

Rule 2:

In affirmative form add only –**d** to the verbs ending in “e”.

Examples:

- ⇒ He lik**e****d** playing soccer.
- ⇒ They decid**e****d** to join us.
- ⇒ I recogniz**e****d** him.

Rule 3:

In affirmative form remove –**y** and add –**ied** to the verbs ending in consonant+**y**

Example:

- ⇒ They carri**y****ied** all the boxes. (carry)
- ⇒ Roberto studi**y****ied** a lot to pass his exam. (study)

Rule 4:

Irregular verbs (the verbs that are exceptions to the above rules)

Examples:

- ⇒ We **saw** the thief stealing the money.
- ⇒ They **broke** the window.
- ⇒ Jessica **took** my pen.
- ⇒ My brother **won** the golden medal.

You can find a comprehensive list of irregular verbs at:

<http://www.grammarbank.com/irregular-verbs.html>

Note: in question and negative forms, we don't use the four rules above, instead; we just use the bare forms of the verbs.

Examples:

I **didn't give** it. (not didn't gave)
Did you **buy** that? (not did you bought)
We **didn't pay** for it. (not didn't paid)

Time expressions used with simple past tense:

yesterday	(some time) ago	in 2000 / in the second century / ...
last week / month / year / summer / winter / May / June / Monday ...		

Examples:

- ⇒ They **found** the lost box yesterday morning.
- ⇒ He **left** five minutes ago.
- ⇒ They **got** divorced five months ago.
- ⇒ I **ran** into Ted last week.
- ⇒ We **went** to Egypt for a vacation in 1988.

We can also use the past simple for situations that existed for a long time in the past.

Examples:

- ⇒ When I was in London, I **smoked**. (used to smoke)
- ⇒ Our teacher at high school was so strict that he severely **punished** any misbehaving students. (would punish)

Note: we should pay attention to tense agreement in sentences with time clauses such as when, while, after, before, as, by the time, etc.

Example:

- ⇒ He always **shouted** at me before he **listened** to me. (not has listened or listens)

We can use “for” with simple past tense as well if the action finished in the past.

- ⇒ I **stayed** at a hotel in Paris **for** six months. (I am no longer staying there)
- ⇒ I played volleyball **for** 3 years at high school. (I am no longer playing)

Sometimes we don't use the simple past for past actions.

It is high time somebody did something (It has a present meaning)
(About)

Examples:

- ⇒ It's time you **went** to bed. (it's your bed time, go to bed.)
It's about time you went to bed.
- ⇒ It's about time you **grew** up and **became** realistic.

Attention:

- ⇒ It **was** time you **had started** (start) studying.

If Clause

Second conditional if clauses - we use the simple past with a present meaning.

Examples:

- ⇒ If I **went** shopping, I **would** buy some cheese.
- ⇒ Even if I **knew** your phone number, I **wouldn't** call you.

Wish Clause & Would Rather

Wish clauses or would rather - we use the simple past with a present meaning.

Examples:

- ⇒ I wish you **worked** with us. (but you don't)
- ⇒ I wish we **were** in Miami lying on the beach.
- ⇒ I would rather you **smoked** less.
I wish you **smoked** less.

As If & As though (pretend to be)

When we use the simple past tense with as if / as though, we mean that we don't believe in it.

Examples:

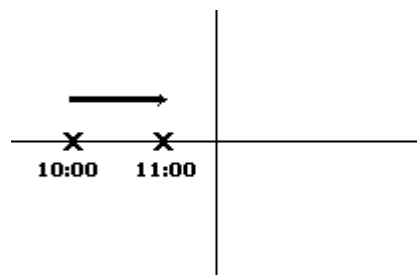
- ⇒ She speaks as if she **was** an expert.(she is not)
- ⇒ I feel as though the world **turned** round me.(it doesn't)
- ⇒ She speaks as if she **is** an expert.(I believe she is) (present tense)

Past Continuous (Progressive)

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I was walking.	I wasn't (was not) walking.	Was I walking?
YOU	You were walking.	You weren't (were not) walking.	Were you walking?
WE	We were walking.	We weren't (were not) walking.	Were we walking?
THEY	They were walking.	They weren't (were not) walking.	Were they walking?
HE/SHE/IT	He was walking.	He wasn't (was not) walking.	Was he walking?

Main Use:

We use past continuous when we talk about actions or events that was going on (for a while) at a particular time in the past:



Examples:

- ⇒ What **were** you **doing** from 10 to 11 yesterday?
- ⇒ I **was** **waiting** for the bus this time yesterday.
- ⇒ They **were** **cleaning** the attic last week this time.

Rule:

We use the past form of the verb "to be - was / were" + "Verb-ing"

Spelling rule:

When we don't pronounce the last "e" of a verb (when it's not strong), we drop it.

- ⇒ I **was** **hiding** behind the tree when my brother caught me. (the last letter "e" is not pronounced.)

Simple Past vs Past Continuous

Simple past tense talks about completed events, however; we use the progressive tense for situations that existed at the time and went on for a while.

- ⇒ The fire alarm **went off** just as my brother **was getting** into the bath.
- ⇒ My aunt Sandra **found** an old book while she **was looking** for her purse.
(short actions) / (long actions)

When two actions or events existed simultaneously we can use the past continuous for both:

- ⇒ Christina **was tidying** her room while her mother **was washing** up.
- ⇒ Melissa **was taking** a shower while I **was watching** TV.

Note: we can use the past simple in the same way.

- ⇒ Melissa **took** a shower while I **watched** TV.

Attention!

We don't use the past continuous for a long-term situation.

Examples:

- ⇒ When I was younger, I **played** basketball so well. (not I was playing)
- ⇒ My uncle **worked** in a phone factory for ten years. (not my uncle was working)

Attention!

We don't use the past continuous or any continuous tense with repeated actions or events.

Examples:

- ⇒ I **traveled** to U.S. three times last year. (not I was traveling...)
- ⇒ I **called** you five times yesterday. (not I was calling...)

We use the past simple when we talk about two or more consecutively completed events or actions.

Examples:

- ⇒ Teacher **came** into the class, **greeted** the students and **started** the lesson.
- ⇒ Clara **dressed up**, **put on** her shoes, **went out** for shopping.

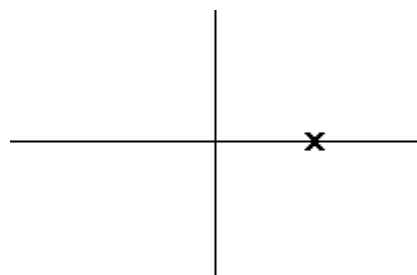
FUTURE TENSES

Simple Future (Will)

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I will come.	I won't (will not) come.	Will I come?
YOU	You will come.	You won't (will not) come.	Will you come?
WE	We will come.	We won't (will not) come.	Will we come?
THEY	They will come.	They won't (will not) come.	Will they come?
HE/SHE/IT	He will come.	He won't (will not) come.	Will he come?

Form: will + verb

It is one of the simplest tenses in English grammar, we just add the bare form of the verb after the auxiliary "will".



Examples:

- ⇒ I **will see** you tomorrow.
- ⇒ They **will visit** us soon.
- ⇒ I **will pick up** the phone.
- ⇒ It looks like it **will rain** tomorrow.

Will future is also known as simple future and it is used for unplanned future. You are having a conversation with friends and they tell you about a party the next day which you didn't know about until then and you suddenly say "Oh, I **will** come to the party tomorrow too." You just decided at that moment.

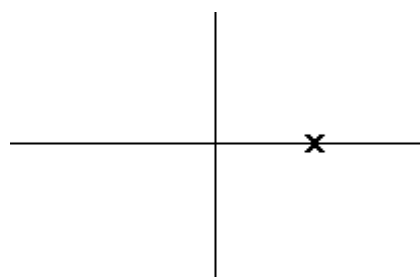
And they say "We **will** see you at the party."

(be) Going To Future

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I am going to do.	I am not going to do.	Am I going to do?
YOU	You are going to do.	You aren't (are not) going to do.	Are you going to do?
WE	We are going to do.	We aren't (are not) going to do.	Are we going to do?
THEY	They are going to do.	They aren't (are not) going to do.	Are they going to do?
HE/SHE/IT	He is going to do.	He isn't (is not) going to do.	Is he going to do?

Form: form of be + going to + verb

Similar to “will” we use the bare form of the verb after “be going to”



Examples:

- ⇒ I **am going to** drive to L.A.
- ⇒ We **aren't going to** participate in this race.
- ⇒ **Are** they **going to** swim with us?

Main Uses:

Both “will future” and “going to future” talk about future. However we prefer “be going to” rather than will when we have some evidence.

- ⇒ What's the matter with your daughter. She looks so pale.
She looks like she **is going to** faint.
- ⇒ Look at all those dark clouds, it **is going to** rain.

If it's just a prediction or a hope, we use "will".

- ⇒ She hopes she **will win** the race.
- ⇒ I hope I **will** see you again very soon.

For the decisions made at the time of speaking.

Examples:

- ⇒ A: I have a severe headache.
- ⇒ B: Don't worry I'**ll** get you an aspirin.

- ⇒ A: The phone is ringing.
- ⇒ B: OK. I **will** answer it.

Present Continuous vs Will vs be going to FUTURE

We use the **present continuous** for more organized actions. There is more certainty.

be going to for planned actions / events with some certainty.

will for unplanned or decisions made at the time of speaking.

Examples:

- ⇒ I'm **seeing** my dentist tomorrow at 7. (more organized)
- ⇒ I'm **going to see** my dentist tomorrow. (there's a certain plan)
- ⇒ I **will** see my dentist tomorrow. (there is not much certainty)

We use simple present instead of future tenses after time clauses such as:

when / while / after / before / as / as soon as / by the time / just as / etc."

Example:

- ⇒ When you **arrive** , I'll call him and let him know.
~~are going to arrive~~
~~will arrive~~

We can use "shall or shan't" instead of "will or won't" with the pronouns "I - we" to be more polite in formal English.

- ⇒ When I retire, I **shall/will** have more time for fishing.

When ordering, offering or requesting something.

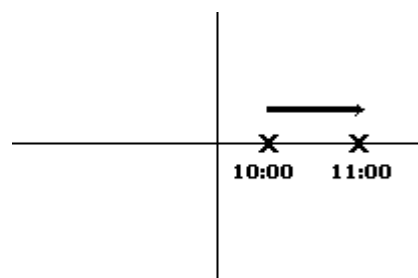
- ⇒ Be quiet, **will** you? (order)
- ⇒ **Will** you be quiet? (request)
- ⇒ **Shall** I help you? (offer)

Future Continuous

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I will be going.	I won't (will not) be going.	Will I be going?
YOU	You will be going.	You won't (will not) be going.	Will you be going?
WE	We will be going.	We won't (will not) be going.	Will we be going?
THEY	They will be going.	They won't (will not) be going.	Will they be going?
HE/SHE/IT	He will be going.	He won't (will not) be going.	Will he be going?

Main Use:

We use will+be+V-ing when we talk about an action or an event which shows a duration at a particular time in the future.



Examples:

- ⇒ I **will be bicycling** from 10:00 to 11:00 tonight.
- ⇒ Next Saturday, our manager **will be celebrating** ten years in management.
- ⇒ After the graduation, I **won't be doing** anything for a while.
- ⇒ My grandparents **will be coming** to our house again for Christmas.(they always do)
- ⇒ At this time tomorrow, I'll **be lying** on the beach.
- ⇒ When you arrive at the airport tonight, **we'll be waiting** for you.

When we want to make an invitation we use “will”; however, when we want to ask for a previous arrangement we use the future continuous.

- ⇒ **Will** you come to the party? (A request, an invitation)
- ⇒ **Will you be coming** to the party? (asking about a previous arrangement)

Future Continuous & Present Continuous for the Future

We can use both the future continuous and the present continuous for planned activities or events in the future.

Example:

We **will be** landing / **are landing** for Venice at 7.00 in the morning.
I **will be** driving / **am driving** tomorrow early in the morning.

Note: when we talk about unexpected events, we use the present continuous.

Example:

A: Have you talked to Mr. Anderson?
B: No, why?
A: He **is leaving** in an hour! (not ...will be leaving)

Will & Future Continuous (Progressive)

- ⇒ Tommy **will** help me do my homework. (= he is eager to help)
- ⇒ Tommy **will be helping** me do my homework. (= a previous arrangement)

- ⇒ **Will** you join us? (= an invitation)
- ⇒ **Will** you **be joining** us? (= asking about a possible previous arrangement)

- ⇒ I **will** leave early tomorrow. (= I have just decided)
- ⇒ I **ll be leaving** early tomorrow. (= already arranged)

PERFECT TENSES

All perfect tenses talk about a specific moment before another.

Sometime before the present

Present Perfect => **Have you come** to a decision yet?

Past-----**Present Perfect**-----now-----future

Sometime before another time in the past

Past Perfect => In 1992 a German called Wegner declared that all the continents **had been joined** together.

-----**Past Perfect**-----past-----now-----future

Sometime before another time in the future

Future Perfect => Everything **will have been** prepared by the time we set sail tomorrow.

-----Past-----now-----**Future Perfect**-----future

We can use perfect tenses to express cause and effect situation.

Examples:

- ⇒ I **have lost** my keys, so I can't get into my house.
- ⇒ I **had lost** my keys, so I couldn't get into my house.
- ⇒ I **will have finished** my assignment by tomorrow so that I can hand it in.
- ⇒ They closed down the factory because it **had caused** great damage to the environment.

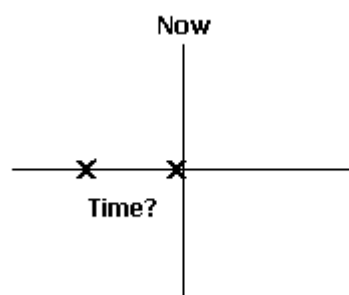
Let's look at the perfect tenses in detail

Present Perfect Tense

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I have seen .	I haven't (have not) walked .	Have I grown?
YOU	You have seen .	You haven't (have not) walked .	Have you grown?
WE	We have seen .	We haven't (have not) walked .	Have we grown?
THEY	They have seen .	They haven't (have not) walked .	Have they grown?
HE/SHE/IT	He has seen .	He hasn't (has not) walked .	Has he grown?

Main Use:

The **Present Perfect Tense** expresses actions or events that began in the past and are still true or appropriate in the present time, or just finished. Present Perfect is also used for something that happened in the past but the exact time of the action isn't known or is not important.



Examples:

- ⇒ My brother **has dedicated** all his life to helping the poor.
- ⇒ Daniel **has** successfully **managed** to pass his class.
- ⇒ I've **learned** the truth.

Formation: have / has + verb3(-ed / -d / -ied / irregular verbs)

Examples:

- ⇒ They **have** **walked** across the bridge carefully.
- ⇒ The class **has** **started**.
- ⇒ He **has** **fixed** the fences.

- ⇒ He **has** phonedd me before.
- ⇒ They **have** decidedd to join us.
- ⇒ I **have** recognizedd him
- ⇒ They **have** carried all the boxes.
- ⇒ Roberto **has** studied a lot to pass his exam.
- ⇒ We **have seen** the thief stealing the money.
- ⇒ They **have broken** the window
- ⇒ Jessica **has taken** my pen.

Events or activities that happened in the past but the effects are still present.

Examples:

- ⇒ I've **broken** the window.(it is still broken)
- ⇒ My brother's **lost** his car keys.(he can't find them)
- ⇒ I've **found** the glasses you were looking for. (they are here)

When we talk about an incomplete period of time.

- ⇒ It **hasn't snowed** much this year.
incomplete period
- ⇒ It **has snowed** a lot in the past two days.
snowed in the last two months.
over the last/past three decades.

Time expression used in present perfect tense:

since	for	ever	never	lately
recently	so far	by now	up until now	up to now
up to present	until now	these days		

Already / just / yet

Already

We use “**already**” to say that something finished or happened before an expected time.

Note: it is used before the participle.

Examples:

A friend asks to have lunch together and I say
I have **already** finished my lunch. (He/She didn't expect I had already had lunch)

They have **already** finished building the bridge.
She has **already** left.

Just

We use “**just**” to say that something has finished or happened very recently.

Examples:

The new manager walks through the door and one says:
The new manager **has just arrived**.

My brother has **just** graduated from college.

Yet

We use “**yet**” to say that something is expected to happen.

Examples:

Have you finished your homework **yet**?
No, I haven't finished it **yet**.

Yet is usually used in negatives and questions, though, you will see the following usage also.

I **have yet** to learn verb tenses. (I haven't learned verb tenses **yet**.)

For vs Since

For: the amount of time passed

Since: a specific of time, starting point / date / clause

For two years	for more than 3 weeks	for ages
Since two years ago	for a long time	since yesterday
Since I saw him	since the wedding	since you came
For a week	since your wedding	for a month

Examples:

- ⇒ I've worked as an English teacher **for the past 5 years**. (indicates a duration)
 - ⇒ I've worked as an English teacher **since 2004**. (indicates the starting point)
 - ⇒ She has changed a lot **since she moved to downtown**. (followed by a clause)
-

First / second / third etc. time + Present Perfect

This is the superlative + Present Perfect
the most...

Examples:

- ⇒ This **is the first time** I've seen such a beautiful beach.
- ⇒ This **is the 13th patient** I've examined today.
- ⇒ Jessica **is the most irresistible** woman I've ever seen.
- ⇒ This **is the last time** I've told you my secret.
- ⇒ It's **the best** film I've ever seen in ages.

Present Perfect to emphasize the meaning of the sentences.

Examples:

- ⇒ Once you **have finished** your assignment you can go out.
- ⇒ Once you **have mastered** grammar and vocabulary you will feel more comfortable speaking.

Been vs Gone

Been (to/in)

We use “been” to say that somebody went somewhere and came back.

Examples:

Gerard has **been to** Paris. (he’s not there any more, maybe here)

I have **been to** that café before. (I am here in front of the listener.)

A: Where have you **been**?

B: Oh, I have **been to** the supermarket.

A: have you ever **been to** Vegas? (did you go and come back?)

B: No, but my cousin has **been** there. And now she says she wants to go there again.

Gone

We use “gone” to say that somebody went somewhere and hasn’t come back yet.

Examples:

Peter has **gone to** the florist. (he is still there)

A: Is James in his office?

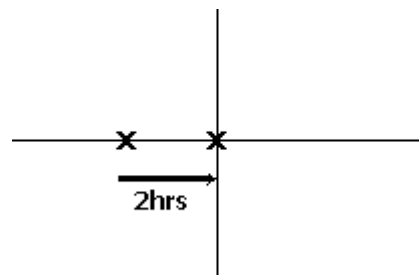
B: No. He’s **gone** out. And I don’t know when he’ll be back. (he is still out)

Present Perfect Continuous (Progressive)

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I have been eating.	I haven't (have not) been walking.	Have I been walking?
YOU	You have been eating.	You haven't (have not) been walking.	Have you been walking?
WE	We have been eating.	We haven't (have not) been walking.	Have we been walking?
THEY	They have been eating.	They haven't (have not) been walking.	Have they been walking?
HE/SHE/IT	He has been eating.	He hasn't (has not) been walking.	Has he been walking?

Main Use:

We use present perfect progressive tense when talking about a situation that started in the past and still going on now since then.



Examples:

- ⇒ He **has been staring** at me for 2 hours.
- ⇒ I've **been living** in England for over two years.
- ⇒ A: What's wrong? Why are you out of breath?
B: Because I **have been running** for over an hour.

Present Perfect Continuous vs Present Perfect

We don't use the present perfect continuous when we mention the number of times the activity or event was repeated.

Examples:

- ⇒ I've called you 3 times today. (not have been calling)
- ⇒ He has visited seven countries this year so far. (not has been visiting)

When we talk about long-lasting situations we use the present perfect.

Examples:

- ⇒ I have always respected my elders.
- ⇒ She is the most attractive woman I've ever met.

We use the present perfect with short / sudden actions.

Examples:

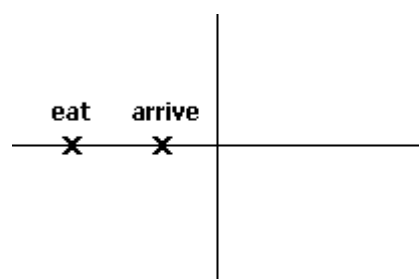
I have dropped my key.
She has lost her passport.

Past Perfect Tense

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I had fixed.	I hadn't (had not) fixed.	Had I fixed?
YOU	You had fixed.	You hadn't (had not) fixed.	Had you fixed?
WE	We had fixed.	We hadn't (had not) fixed.	Had we fixed?
THEY	They had fixed.	They hadn't (had not) fixed.	Had they fixed?
HE/SHE/IT	He had fixed.	He hadn't (had not) fixed.	Had he fixed?

Main Use:

We use the past perfect to talk about a past event or situation that was before another past event.



Examples:

They **had eaten** dinner when I **arrived**.

I **had attended** several English courses before I traveled to U.S.

They **hadn't met** before the school started.

Jack went out after he **had finished** his homework.

We **had never tried** sushi until we visited Japan.

Two past events:

The event that happened first is used with past perfect tense and the other event which happened later is in simple past.

1. The movie started at 8.30

2. I arrived at 9.30

We put the events in order and then decide which one to use the past perfect with.

8:30 9:30 now future (Both event are past)

The movie **had already started** by the time I **arrived** at the cinema.

Example 2:

1. They called the car dealer.
2. Their favorite car was sold.

We put the events in order and then decide which one to use the past perfect with.

Car was sold / they called / now / future (Both past)

Their favorite car had already been sold when they called the car dealer.

1st event 2nd event

Some indicators for past perfect tense

2 past events / actions related to each other and one after another.
An indicator word / phrase below

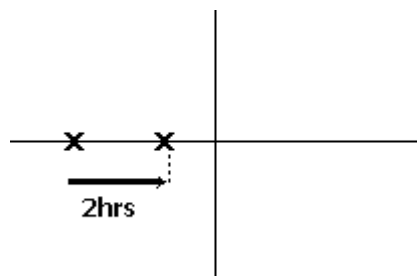
By the time / when / after / before / until

Past Perfect Continuous (Progressive) Tense

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I had been eating.	I hadn't (had not) been walking.	Had I been walking?
YOU	You had been eating.	You hadn't (had not) been walking.	Had you been walking?
WE	We had been eating.	We hadn't (had not) been walking.	Had we been walking?
THEY	They had been eating.	They hadn't (had not) been walking.	Had they been walking?
HE/SHE/IT	He had been eating.	He hadn't (had not) been walking.	Had he been walking ?

Main Use:

We use past perfect continuous when we talk about actions or events that went on for a while before another past event.



Examples:

- ⇒ She **had been working** non-stop for two hours in front of the computer so her eyes hurt a lot yesterday.
- ⇒ I was exhausted as I **had been studying** for the exam for many years.
- ⇒ My brother **had been sleeping** for two hours when you called us.
- ⇒ I **had been playing** computer games when the lights went out.

Past Perfect Continuous vs Past Continuous

We use the past continuous to talk about actions or events that was going on at a particular time in the past; however we prefer the past perfect continuous to specify how long something had been going on.

Examples:

- ⇒ When I entered the room he **was reading** a book.
- ⇒ When I entered the room he **had been reading** a book for hours.

In the first one we just have the information of what was happening.

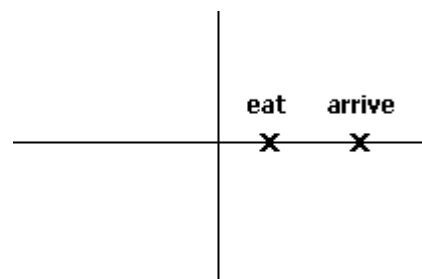
In the second one we also have the information of how long the event had been going.

Future Perfect Tense

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I will have cleaned	I won't (will not) have cleaned	Will I have cleaned
YOU	You will have cleaned	You won't (will not) have cleaned	Will you have cleaned
WE	We will have cleaned	We won't (will not) have cleaned	Will we have cleaned
THEY	They will have cleaned	They won't (will not) have cleaned	Will they have cleaned
HE/SHE/IT	He will have cleaned	He won't (will not) have cleaned	Will he have cleaned

Main Use:

We use **the future perfect tense** to show that an action will take place, or will be completed before another action or time in the future.



Examples:

- ⇒ We **will have eaten** when you **arrive** home tomorrow.
- ⇒ By the time you get ready we **will have missed** the flight.
- ⇒ Our car **will have done** 30,000 miles by the end of the year.
- ⇒ By the time the police arrive the thieves **will have gone**.
- ⇒ Before you get home I **will have finished** the laundry.

Time expressions used with this tense:

By + a future time reference - **tomorrow / then / the year 2025 / the end of this year.**

Examples:

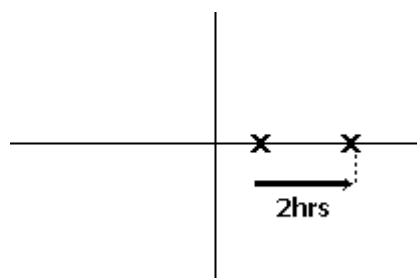
I will have graduated by 2016
by tomorrow
by the end of this month

Future Perfect Continuous

SUBJECTS	AFFIRMATIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I	I will have been going .	I won't (will not) have been going .	Will I have been going?
YOU	You will have been going .	You won't (will not) have been going .	Will you have been going?
WE	We will have been going .	We won't (will not) have been going .	Will we have been going?
THEY	They will have been going .	They won't (will not) have been going .	Will they have been going?
HE/SHE/IT	He will have been going .	He won't (will not) have been going .	Will he have been going?

Main Use:

Future perfect continuous tense is used to emphasize the duration of an event or an activity that will be going on for a while in the future:



Examples:

- ⇒ We **will have been studying** for 2 hours when you join us.
- ⇒ Next year, I **will have been teaching** English for fifteen years.
- ⇒ By the end of this month I **will have been attending** in this course for five weeks.
- ⇒ In June, I **will have been babysitting** for 2 years and 6 months.

Useful Links:

1. [Verb Tenses Chart](#)
2. [Verb Tenses Online Exercises](#)
3. [Printable Exercises](#)

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