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Part 01:

Tenses

The verb is the most fundamental part of speech. Only verbs can make a statement about the subject. So, every sentence must have a verb.

The use of the English Tenses

Type of Tense	Type of Action Expressed
Simple	- Actions occurring at a regular intervals; - General truths, or situations existing for a period of time; - Non-continuous actions.
Continuous	- Continuous, ongoing actions.
Perfect	- Non-continuous actions completed before a certain time.
Perfect Continuous	- Continuous, ongoing actions completed before a certain time.

Simple tenses

Auxiliary verbs: to be, to have and to do.

Present simple

We use it for:

- Thoughts and feelings: I think so / I like it.
- States, things staying the same, facts and things that are true for a long time: We live quite near.
- Repeated actions: We come here every week.

In the present simple we use the verb without an ending.

For example: I get the lunch ready at one o'clock, usually. We always do our shopping at Greenway. Most children like ice cream. You know the answer.

But in the third person singular (after he, she, it), the verb ends in “s” or “es”. For example:

Sarah catches the early train. She faxes messages all over the world.

NEGATIVE

I/you/we/they do not get OR don't get

He/she/it does not get OR doesn't get

QUESTION

Do I/we/you/they get?

Does he/she/it get?

To be		To have		To do	
Personal pronouns	Present simple	Personal pronouns	Present simple	Personal pronouns	Present simple
I	Am	I	Have	I	Do
You	Are	You	Have	You	Do
He	Is	He	Has	He	Does
She	Is	She	Has	She	Does
It	Is	It	Has	It	Does
We	Are	We	Have	We	Do
You	Are	You	Have	You	Do
They	Are	They	Have	They	Do

Past simple

Past simple expresses an action or condition that took place in the past.

A **regular** past form ends in “ed”. For example: It happened very quickly. The van crashed into the cat. I posted the letter yesterday. We once owned a caravan.

Some verbs have an **irregular** past form. For example: The car came out of a side road. Vicky rang earlier. I won the game. I had breakfast at six. The train left on time. We took some photos.

For a list of irregular verbs, see page (04).

The past simple is the same in all persons except in the past tense of to be.

For example: I/he/she/it was I was ill last week, you/we/they were. Those cakes were nice.

NEGATIVE

Question

- We use did in negatives and questions.

I/you/he/she/it/we/they did not stop

OR didn't stop

The car did not stop.

The driver didn't look to his right.

Did I/you/he/she/it/we/they stop?

What did you tell the police? ~ Nothing.

Did you ring home? ~ Yes, I did.

- We also use was and were in negatives and questions.

I/he/she/it was not OR wasn't
 You/we/they were OR weren't
 I wasn't very well last week.
 The gates weren't open.

Was I/he/she/it?
 Were you/we/they?
 Where was your friend last night?
 Was your steak nice?

To be		To have		To do	
Personal pronouns	Past simple	Personal pronouns	Past simple	Personal pronouns	Past simple
I	Was	I	Had	I	Did
You	Were	You	Had	You	Did
He	Was	He	Had	He	Did
She	Was	She	Had	She	Did
It	Was	It	Had	It	Did
We	Were	We	Had	We	Did
You	Were	You	Had	You	Did
They	Were	They	Had	They	Did

Future simple

We use the future simple to express one's believes, expects, fears, hopes, etc. For example: he will come back sooner or later.

We form the future simple with will/shall.

NEGATIVE

I will not/I won't work or I shall not/I shan't work.
 You will not/you won't work.
 He will not/he won't work etc.

Question

Will/shall I work?
 Will you work?
 Will he work?

To be		To have		To do	
Personal pronouns	Future simple	Personal pronouns	Future simple	Personal pronouns	Future simple
I	Will be	I	Will have	I	Will do
You	Will be	You	Will have	You	Will do
He	Will be	He	Will have	He	Will do
She	Will be	She	Will have	She	Will do
It	Will be	It	Will have	It	Will do
We	Will be	We	Will have	We	Will do
You	Will be	You	Will have	You	Will do
They	Will be	They	Will have	They	Will do

Some common irregular verbs.

Present and infinitive	Past simple	Past participle	Present and infinitive	Past simple	Past participle
- Be	- Was	- Been	- Lead	- Led	- Led
- Begin	- Began	- Begun	- Leave	- Left	- Left
- Blow	- Blew	- Blown	- Let	- Let	- Let
- Break	- Broke	- Broken	- Lie	- Lay	- Lain
- Bring	- Brought	- Brought	- Lose	- Lost	- Lost
- Buy	- Bought	- Bought	- Make	- Made	- Made
- Choose	- Chose	- Chosen	- Mean	- Meant	- Meant
- Come	- Came	- Come	- Meet	- Met	- Met
- Cut	- Cut	- Cut	- Pay	- Paid	- Paid
- Deal	- Dealt	- Dealt	- Put	- Put	- Put
- Dig	- Dug	- Dug	- Read	- Read	- Read
- Do	- Did	- Done	- Ride	- Rode	- Ridden
- Drink	- Drank	- Drunk	- Run	- Ran	- Run
- Drive	- Drove	- Driven	- Say	- Said	- Said
- Eat	- Ate	- Eaten	- See	- Saw	- Seen
- Fall	- Fell	- Fallen	- Sell	- Sold	- Sold
- Feel	- Felt	- Felt	- Send	- Sent	- Sent
- Find	- Found	- Found	- Shine	- Shone	- Shone
- Fly	- Flew	- Flown	- Shut	- Shut	- Shut
- Forget	- Forgot	- Forgotten	- Sing	- Sang	- Sung
- Freeze	- Froze	- Frozen	- Sit	- Sat	- Sat
- Get	- Got	- Got	- Speak	- Spoke	- Spoken
- Give	- Gave	- Given	- Spend	- Spent	- Spent
- Go	- Went	- Gone	- Stand	- Stood	- Stood
- Have	- Had	- Had	- Steal	- Stole	- Stolen
- Hear	- Heard	- Heard	- Stick	- Struck	- Struck
- Hide	- Hid	- Hidden	- Swim	- Swam	- Swim
- Hit	- Hit	- Hit	- Take	- Took	- Taken
- Hold	- Held	- Held	- Think	- Thought	- Thought
- Keep	- Kept	- Kept	- Throw	- Threw	- Thrown
- Know	- Knew	- Know	- Wake	- Woke	- Woken
- Lay	- Laid	- Laid	- Wear	- Wore	- Worn
			- Win	- Win	- Won

(Thomson, A. J. Martinet, A. V. (1997). Oxford Pocket English Grammar. Oxford University Press).