

# Tenses

Verbs come in three tenses: past, present, and future. The past is used to describe things that have already happened (e.g., earlier in the day, yesterday, last week, three years ago). The present tense is used to describe things that are happening right now, or things that are continuous. The future tense describes things that have yet to happen (e.g., later, tomorrow, next week, next year, three years from now).

**The following sentences illustrate the proper use of verb tenses:**

**Simple present:** I read nearly every day.

**Simple past :** Last night, I read an entire novel.

**Future simple :** I will read as much as I can this year.

**Present Continuous:**I am reading Shakespeare at the moment.

**Past continuous:** I was reading Edgar Allan Poe last night.

**Future continuous:** I will be reading Nathaniel Hawthorne soon.

**Present perfect:** I have read so many books I can't keep count.

**Past perfect:** I had read at least 100 books by the time I was twelve.

**Future perfect:** I will have read at least 500 books by the end of the year.

**Present perfect continuous:** I have been reading since I was four years old.

**Past perfect continuous:** I had been reading for at least a year before my sister learned to read. Future

**Future perfect continuous:** I will have been reading for at least two hours before dinner tonight.

<b>Remember Verb To Be</b>			
<u>Simple Present</u>		<u>Simple Past</u>	
I	am	I	was
You	are	You	were
He	is	He	was
She	is	She	was
It	is	It	was
We	are	We	were
They	are	They	were

<b>Verb "to have": Past</b> -when used as a main verb-		
Pronoun	Affirmative	Negative
I	I <b>had</b>	I <b>didn't have</b>
you	you <b>had</b>	you <b>didn't have</b>
he	he <b>had</b>	he <b>didn't have</b>
she	she <b>had</b>	she <b>didn't have</b>
it	it <b>had</b>	it <b>didn't have</b>
we	we <b>had</b>	we <b>didn't have</b>
they	they <b>had</b>	they <b>didn't have</b>
you	you <b>had</b>	you <b>didn't have</b>

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## Revision verb tenses A2

### Present simple

always, never, usually, often, rarely, etc.  
once every three months, twice a week, etc.

- Habits or situations that happen regularly.**  
*I wash my hair every day. I never go to the library. She works as a nurse. He lives in Glasgow.*
- Present states or permanent situations. Things that are always or generally true.**  
*I don't drink coffee. She's very tall. I have two brothers. Water boils at 100 degrees. I like soup.*
- To talk about the future in first conditional and future time clauses (when, as soon as, after, before, once, while)**  
*I'll call you as soon as I arrive. When I am 67, I will retire. Send us a postcard while you are there.*

### Present continuous

now, these days, this week, at present, etc.  
Look! Listen!

- Actions in progress; things that are happening now or 'around now'.**  
*I'm watching a new series now. Listen! The neighbours are having an argument. What are you doing?*
- Temporary actions.**  
*My car is in the garage; I'm taking the bus this week. I'm not driving these days because I have an injury.*
- Future arrangements (with a future time expression)**  
*I'm seeing the dentist at 6. We are getting married next week. I'm flying to New York tomorrow morning.*

### Past simple

yesterday, last week, last year, in 2010,  
two hours ago, three years ago

- Past finished actions.**  
*We arrived last Friday. I missed the train. We moved to Chester last year. When did you get married?*
- Actions in chronological order in a story.**  
*I opened the door, walked into the room and saw him.*
- Habitual actions in the past, and past states.**  
*Sarah always arrived on time. She travelled very often. He didn't like coffee. She was very tall. They had two children. We lived in the country.*

### Past continuous

while, when, at three o'clock yesterday

- Actions in progress at certain time in the past.**  
*At 10 p.m. I was sleeping like a baby. When she arrived we were cooking dinner. Where were you going when I saw you?*
- In narratives, to describe the scene at the beginning of a story.**  
*It was getting dark, and I was walking fast to the pub when...*

### Present perfect

recently, lately, ever, never, before, superlative, once/twice/  
three times/etc., just, already, yet, for, since, how long

- Recent past events that are relevant now. We don't say when the action happened.**  
*I've passed the exam! She's just called. Have you finished yet? We've already tidied up the room.*
- Past experiences. We don't say when the action happened.**  
*Have you ever been to Ireland? This is the best film I've ever seen. I've read this book twice. I've never been here before.*
- Actions or states that started in the past and have not finished.**  
*How long have you been married? We've known each other since we were children. I've been very busy lately. I've lived in this house for over 20 years.*

### Future

will

be going to

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predictions about something we think will happen.</b><br/><i>I think he'll win the election. He will be a good doctor.</i></li> <li><b>Instant decisions</b><br/><i>'Oh, we don't have sugar.' 'Don't worry, I'll ask our neighbour.'</i></li> <li><b>Also:</b><br/>Promises (<i>I will</i>)<br/>Suggestions (<i>Shall we?</i>)<br/>Offers (<i>Shall I?/I will</i>)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Predictions about something we see will happen (present evidence).</b><br/><i>I don't know the answers; I'm going to fail the test. The doctor said I'm going to have a baby girl.</i></li> <li><b>Decisions that you have already taken at the moment of speaking (intentions or plans)</b><br/><i>Why are you undressing?' 'Because I'm going to go for a swim.'</i></li> </ol> |
|--|---|



# Past Simple Tense

**Simple Past Tense** indicates an action which is completed at a definite time in the past.

POSITIVE (+)	NEGATIVE (-)	QUESTION (?)
I started	I did not start	Did I start
You started	You did not start	Did you start
He started	He did not start	Did he start
She started	She did not start	Did she start
It started	It did not start	Did it start
We started	We did not start	Did we start
You started	You did not start	Did you start
They started	They did not start	Did they start

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Positive Sentences	Negative Sentences	Question Sentences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We <b>watched</b> the news last night.</li> <li>They <b>went</b> to the party yesterday.</li> <li>She <b>read</b> the book.</li> <li>He <b>drew</b> beautiful pictures last week.</li> <li>I <b>learnt</b> Spanish last summer.</li> <li>You <b>gave</b> the present to your friend.</li> <li>We <b>bought</b> a new car.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We <b>did not watch</b> the news last night.</li> <li>They <b>did not go</b> to the party yesterday.</li> <li>She <b>did not read</b> the book.</li> <li>He <b>did not draw</b> beautiful pictures last week.</li> <li>I <b>did not learn</b> Spanish last summer.</li> <li>You <b>did not give</b> the present to your friend.</li> <li>We <b>did not buy</b> a new car.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Did</b> we <b>watch</b> the news last night?</li> <li><b>Did</b> they <b>go</b> to the party yesterday?</li> <li><b>Did</b> she <b>read</b> the book?</li> <li><b>Did</b> he <b>draw</b> beautiful pictures last week?</li> <li><b>Did</b> I <b>learn</b> Spanish last summer?</li> <li><b>Did</b> you <b>give</b> the present to your friend?</li> <li><b>Did</b> we <b>buy</b> a new car?</li> </ul>

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## The difference between present perfect simple and present perfect continuous:

We use the present perfect simple when we are more interested in the result of the action

Example: I have painted the living room (the focus is on the finished result). The activity is finished but we can see the result now.

We use the present perfect continuous when we are more interested in the action itself.

Example: I have been decorating the house this summer (the focus is on the action and the action is unfinished).

**The difference between the past perfect simple and past perfect continuous:**

We use the past perfect simple with action verbs to emphasize the completion of an event.

Example: when she arrived, the bus had already left.

(It is used to express the past action, already finished when another past action happened.)

We use the past perfect continuous to show that an event or action in the past was continuing.

Example: we had been looking for the wallet for 2 hours when Susan found it.

(It is used to express a past action, which started in the past and continued to happen after another action or time in the past.)