

English Tenses: Learn ALL of English Conjugation (1/14)

There is no exact correspondence between English tenses and those of your native language.

Understand the use of each tense to employ them correctly:

for a given action - what do I want to express?

therefore, which tense to use in English?

To choose the correct tense, identify the context (keywords, environment...)

PRESENT SIMPLE

- **Usage:** schedules, general truths, expressing likes, describing
- **Time markers:** *every day, always, never, often, usually...*

♦ affirmative = **SUBJECT + BASE VERB + -(E)S (3rd person singular)**

Example: *She walks thirty minutes every day/deɪ/.*

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◆ negative = *SUBJECT + DO / DOES + NOT + BASE VERB*

Example: *We don't have any pets.*

◆ question = *DO / DOES (except with verb BE) + SUBJECT + BASE VERB + ?*

Example: *Do they go/gəʊ/ to bed early/'ɜ:.li/?*

Note: DO/DOES is not used with TO BE.

Example: *The children/'tʃɪl.drən/ are quiet/'kwaɪ.ət/.*

Example: *Are the children quiet?*

PAST SIMPLE (= preterit)

- Usage: completed actions or events in the past with no connection to the present, telling a story
- Time markers: last month, two years ago, etc.

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◆ affirmative = **SUBJECT + BASE VERB + -ED** (or **SUBJECT + IRREGULAR VERB 2nd form**)

Example:

- *They decided to leave/li:v/ earlier.*
- *He went to Washington.*

◆ negative = **SUBJECT + DID + NOT + BASE VERB**

Example: *I didn't try it out.*

◆ question = **DID + SUBJECT + BASE VERB + ?**

Example: *Did you see what happened?*

Note: DID is not used with TO BE.

Example:

- *The house/haus/ wasn't big enough.*
- *Were/wɜ:r/ you at home/həʊm/?*

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FUTURE SIMPLE

- Usage: future events, expressing willingness, polite request, command

◆ affirmative = **SUBJECT + WILL + BASE VERB**

Examples:

- *I'll visit/***'vɪz.ɪt/ Cambodia/***kæm' bəʊ.di.ə/.*
- *You will do as you are told/***təʊld/.**

◆ negative = **SUBJECT + WILL + NOT + BASE VERB**

Example: *You won't call/***kɔ:l/ me.**

◆ question = **WILL + SUBJECT + BASE VERB + ?**

Example: *Will you tell her?*

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PRESENT CONTINUOUS

- Usage: actions currently in progress

◆ affirmative = **SUBJECT + AM / IS / ARE + BASE VERB + -ING**

Example: *She's playing with*/wið/ *her nephew*/'nef.ju:/.

◆ negative = **SUBJECT + AM / IS / ARE + NOT + BASE VERB + -ING**

Example: *We're not leaving now*/naʊ/.

◆ question = **AM / IS / ARE + SUBJECT + BASE VERB + -ING + ?**

Example: *What are they doing?*

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PAST CONTINUOUS

- Usage: **actions that were in progress in the past**

◆ affirmative = **SUBJECT + WAS / WERE + BASE VERB + -ING**

Example: *You were eating.*

◆ negative = **SUBJECT + WAS / WERE + NOT + BASE VERB + -ING**

Example: *She wasn't listening.*

◆ question = **WAS / WERE + SUBJECT + BASE VERB + -ING + ?**

Example: *Were/w3:r/ they praying?*

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FUTURE CONTINUOUS

- Usage: actions that will be in progress in the future

◆ affirmative = **SUBJECT + WILL BE + BASE VERB + -ING**

Example: *I will be cooking.*

◆ negative = **SUBJECT + WILL + NOT + BE + BASE VERB + -ING**

Example: *They won't be working.*

◆ question = **WILL + SUBJECT + BE + BASE VERB + -ING + ?**

Example: *Will/will you be driving?*

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PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

- Usage: **past action with consequences in the present**

◆ affirmative = ***SUBJECT + HAVE / HAS + PAST PARTICIPLE***

Example: *I have repaired the car*/kɑ:r/.

◆ negative = ***SUBJECT + HAVE / HAS + NOT + PAST PARTICIPLE***

Example: *She hasn't been to Greece*/gri:s/.

◆ question = ***HAVE / HAS + SUBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE + ?***

Example: *Have you finished*/'fɪn.ɪʃt/ *your homework*/'həʊm.wɜ:k/?

Note: Past participle = ***BASE VERB + ED (or 3rd column for irregular verbs)***

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PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- Usage: action that started in the past and is still continuing in the present

◆ affirmative = **SUBJECT + HAVE / HAS + BEEN + BASE VERB + -ING**

Example: *We have been learning English*/'ɪŋ.glɪʃ/ for 4 years.

◆ negative = **SUBJECT + HAVE / HAS + NOT + BEEN + BASE VERB + -ING**

Example: *He hasn't been painting*/'peɪn.tɪŋ/.

◆ question = **HAVE / HAS + SUBJECT + BEEN + BASE VERB + -ING + ?**

Example: *Have you been dancing all day*/deɪ/ *long*/lɒŋ/?

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PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

- Usage: **past action that happened before another action in the past**

◆ affirmative = **SUBJECT + HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE**

Example: *They **had**/hæd/ **had** their lunch on the train/treɪn/.*

◆ negative = **SUBJECT + HAD + NOT + PAST PARTICIPLE**

Example: *We **hadn't** seen/si:n/ them/ðem/.*

◆ question = **HAD + SUBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE + ?**

Example: ***Had** you brought/brɔ:t/ an umbrella/ʌm'breɪ.ə/?*

Note: Past participle = **BASE VERB + ED (or 3rd column for irregulars)**

FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

- Usage: future action that will be completed before another time or event in the future

◆ affirmative = **SUBJECT + WILL HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE**

Example: *I will have cleaned the house/haus/.*

◆ negative = **SUBJECT + WILL + NOT + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE**

Example: *You will not have finished.*

◆ question = **WILL + SUBJECT + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE + ?**

Example: *Will we have reached Vienna/vi'en.ə/ by 3 pm?*

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CONDITIONAL

ZERO CONDITIONAL: If A happens, then B happens.

IF + present simple / present simple

Example: *If you heat/hi:t/ water/'wɔ:.tər/, it boils.*

FIRST CONDITIONAL: If A happens, then B will happen.

IF + present simple / future simple

Example: *If it rains, we won't go/gəʊ/ out.*

SECOND CONDITIONAL: If A were to happen, then B would happen.

IF + past simple / WOULD + base verb

Example: *If I had more money/'mʌn.i/, I would buy a house/haus/.*

English Tenses: Learn ALL of English Conjugation (13/14)



THIRD CONDITIONAL: If A had happened, then B would have happened.

IF + past perfect / WOULD HAVE + past participle

Example: *If she had/hæd/ studied harder, she wouldn't have failed/feɪld/.*

Note: You can invert the two parts of the sentence without changing the tenses:

If I went to bed earlier, I wouldn't be so tired.

I wouldn't be so tired if I went to bed/red/ earlier.

(Note the comma when beginning with the result clause.)

IMPERATIVE

- Usage: giving orders, instructions, or making suggestions.

English Tenses: Learn ALL of English Conjugation (14/14)



1/ Addressing one or more people:

Affirmative = **BASE VERB**

Give/gɪv/ me a pen!

Negative = **DON'T / DO NOT + BASE VERB**

Don't open/'əʊ.pən/ the door!

2/ Addressing one or more people and including oneself:

Affirmative = **LET'S + BASE VERB**

Let's eat/i:t/!

Negative = **LET'S NOT + BASE VERB**

Let's not argue/'ɑ:g.ju:!!