



OVERVIEW OF TENSES

SIMPLE TENSES -----X-----|-----X-----> now

- SIMPLE PRESENT** – general information
Pronunciation note: /s/, /z/, /iz/ + syllable
-- Happens every day, week, etc.
-- Used with “always,” “often,” “usually,” “sometimes,” “rarely,” “never.”
-- Historical present – To tell a story about a past event as if it were happening right now.

Q: Do you drink coffee?
A: Yes, I do. (Yes, I drink coffee.)
No, I don't. (No, I don't drink coffee.)

Q: Does Scott drink tea?
A: Yes, he does. (Yes, he drinks tea.)
No, he doesn't. (No, he doesn't drink tea.)

- SIMPLE PAST** – completed action
Pronunciation note: /t/, /d/, /id/ + syllable
Q: Did you walk to the store?
A: Yes, I did. (Yes, I walked to the store.)
No, I didn't. (No, I didn't walk to the store.)

Q: Did you buy doughnuts?
A: Yes, I did. (Yes, I bought doughnuts.)
No, I didn't. (No, I didn't buy any doughnuts.)

- SIMPLE FUTURE** – future plans or making predictions
Activity thought about at time of speaking
Q: Will you see Lisa tomorrow?
A: Yes, I will. (Yes, I'll see her.)
No, I won't. (No, I won't see her.)

Activity planned or talked about earlier
Q: Are you going to see Tom later?
A: Yes, I am. (Yes, I'm going to see him.)
No, I 'm not. (No, I'm not going to see him.)

PROGRESSIVE (or continuous) TENSES

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action

- PRESENT PROGRESSIVE** – now and continuing
Q: Are you studying right now?
A: Yes, I am. (Yes, I'm studying.)
No, I 'm not. (No, I'm not studying.)
- PAST PROGRESSIVE** -- past and continuing; may be finished, may not be.
Q: Were you sleeping?
A: Yes, I was. (Yes, I was sleeping.)
No, I wasn't. (No, I wasn't sleeping.)

- FUTURE PROGRESSIVE**
-- Happening in the future and continuing.
-- To politely ask about someone's plans, especially when you need a favor.
Q: Will you be making copies of your proposal?
A: Yes, I will be. (Yes, I'll be making copies.)
B: No, I won't be. (No, I won't be making copies.)

PERFECT TENSES -----X-----|-----> action when

- PRESENT PERFECT**
-- Action continues into the present, or just completed.
-- Unfinished time period (e.g., today, your life, etc.)
-- For how long or since when.
Q: Have you washed your car yet?
A: Yes, I have. (Yes, I've *already* washed my car.)
No, I haven't. (No, I haven't washed my car *yet*.)
**already = before this, yet = at and until this moment*

- PAST PERFECT**
-- Happened before another event in the past.
Q: Had the meeting *already* begun when you got there?
A: Yes, it had. (Yes, it had *already* begun.)
No, it hadn't. (No, it hadn't *already* begun *yet*.)

- FUTURE PERFECT**
-- Happening before another event in the future.
Q: Will you have finished the report when you leave for Los Angeles?
A: Yes, I will have. (Yes, I'll have finished the report.)
No, I won't have. (No, I won't have finished the report.)

PERFECT PROGRESSIVE TENSES

- Emphasis on *continuing* action
- For *how long* (a period of time)
- Since *what time* (a point in time)

- PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE**
Q: How long have you been reading?
A: I've been reading for *two hours* now.
I've been reading since *eight o'clock*.
- PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE**
I'd been cooking for *awhile* when the doorbell rang.
- FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE**
I'll have been hiking for *half the day* by dinner tonight.