

LEARNING ENGLISH ONLINE

Tense	Signal words	Use	Form	Examples affirmative	Examples negative	Examples interrogative
<b>Simple Present</b>	<p>every day</p> <p>sometimes</p> <p>always</p> <p>often</p> <p>usually</p> <p>seldom</p> <p>never</p> <p>first ... then</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>something happens repeatedly</li> <li>how often something happens</li> <li>one action follows another</li> <li>things in general</li> <li>with verbs like (<i>to love, to hate, to think, etc.</i>)</li> <li>future meaning: timetables, programmes</li> </ul>	<p>infinitive</p> <p>he/she/it: infinitive + s</p>	<p>I <b>work</b>.</p> <p>He <b>works</b>.</p> <p>I <b>go</b>.</p> <p>He <b>goes</b>.</p>	<p>I <b>don't work</b>.</p> <p>He <b>doesn't work</b>.</p> <p>I <b>don't go</b>.</p> <p>He <b>doesn't go</b>.</p>	<p><b>Do</b> I <b>work</b>?</p> <p><b>Does</b> he <b>work</b>?</p> <p><b>Do</b> I <b>go</b>?</p> <p><b>Does</b> he <b>go</b>?</p>
<b>Present Progressive</b>	<p>now</p> <p>at the moment</p> <p>Look!</p> <p>Listen!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>something is happening at the same time of speaking or around it</li> <li>future meaning: when you have already <b>decided and arranged</b> to do it (a fixed plan, date)</li> </ul>	<p>be (am/are/is) + infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I'm <b>working</b>.</p> <p>He's <b>working</b>.</p> <p>I'm <b>going</b>.</p> <p>He's <b>going</b>.</p>	<p>I'm <b>not working</b>.</p> <p>He <b>isn't working</b>.</p> <p>I'm <b>not going</b>.</p> <p>He <b>isn't going</b>.</p>	<p><b>Am</b> I <b>working</b>?</p> <p><b>Is</b> he <b>working</b>?</p> <p><b>Am</b> I <b>going</b>?</p> <p><b>Is</b> he <b>going</b>?</p>
<b>Simple Past</b>	<p>last ...</p> <p>... ago</p> <p>in 1990</p> <p>yesterday</p>	<p>action took place in the past, mostly connected with an expression of time (no connection to the present)</p>	<p>regular: infinitive + ed</p> <p>irregular: (2nd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I <b>worked</b>.</p> <p>He <b>worked</b>.</p> <p>I <b>went</b>.</p> <p>He <b>went</b>.</p>	<p>I <b>didn't work</b>.</p> <p>He <b>didn't work</b>.</p> <p>I <b>didn't go</b>.</p> <p>He <b>didn't go</b>.</p>	<p><b>Did</b> I <b>work</b>?</p> <p><b>Did</b> he <b>work</b>?</p> <p><b>Did</b> I <b>go</b>?</p> <p><b>Did</b> he <b>go</b>?</p>

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<p><b>Past Progressive</b></p>	<p>while</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an action happened in the middle of another action</li> <li>someone was doing sth. at a certain time (in the past) - you don't know whether it was finished or not</li> </ul>	<p>was/were + infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I was working. He was working. I was going. He was going.</p>	<p>I wasn't working. He wasn't working. I wasn't going. He wasn't going.</p>	<p>Was I working? Was he working? Was I going? Was he going?</p>
<p><b>Simple Present Perfect</b></p>	<p>just yet never ever already so far, up to now, since for recently</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>you say that sth. has happened or is finished in the past and it has a connection to the present</li> <li>action started in the past and continues up to the present</li> </ul>	<p>have/has + past participle*</p> <p>*(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I have worked. He has worked. I have gone. He has gone.</p>	<p>I haven't worked. He hasn't worked. I haven't gone. He hasn't gone.</p>	<p>Have I worked? Has he worked? Have I gone? Has he gone?</p>
<p><b>Present Perfect Progressive</b></p>	<p>all day the whole day how long since for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action began in the past and has just stopped</li> <li>how long the action has been happening</li> </ul> <p><b>emphasis: length of time of an action</b></p>	<p>have/has + been + infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I have been working. He has been working. I have been going. He has been going.</p>	<p>I haven't been working. He hasn't been working. I haven't been going. He hasn't been going.</p>	<p>Have I been working? Has he been working? Have I been going? Has he been going?</p>

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<p><b>Simple Past Perfect</b></p>	<p>already just never</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mostly when two actions in a story are related to each other: the action which had already happened is put into <i>Past Perfect</i>, the other action into <i>Simple Past</i></li> <li>the past of the <i>Present Perfect</i></li> </ul>	<p>had + past participle*</p> <p>*(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I had worked. He had worked. I had gone. He had gone.</p>	<p>I hadn't worked. He hadn't worked. I hadn't gone. He hadn't gone.</p>	<p>Had I worked? Had he worked? Had I gone? Had he gone?</p>
<p><b>Past Perfect Progressive</b></p>	<p>how long since for</p>	<p>how long something had been happening before something else happened</p>	<p>had + been + infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I had been working. He had been working. I had been going. He had been going.</p>	<p>I hadn't been working. He hadn't been working. I hadn't been going. He hadn't been going.</p>	<p>Had I been working? Had he been working? Had I been going? Had he been going?</p>
<p><b>will - future</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>predictions about the future (you think that sth will happen)</li> <li>you decide to do sth. spontaneously at the time of speaking</li> <li>main clause in type I of the Conditional sentences</li> </ul>	<p>will + infinitive</p>	<p>I'll work. He'll work. I'll go. He'll go.</p>	<p>I won't work. He won't work. I won't go. He won't go.</p>	<p>Will I work? Will he work? Will I go? Will he go?</p>
<p><b>going to - future</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>when you have already decided to do sth. in the future</li> <li>what you think what will happen</li> </ul>	<p>be (am/are/is) + going to + infinitive</p>	<p>I'm going to work. He's going to work. I'm going to go. He's going to go.</p>	<p>I'm not going to work. He's not going to work. I'm not going to go. He's not going to go.</p>	<p>Am I going to work? Is he going to work? Am I going to go? Is he going to go?</p>

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<b>Future Progressive</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An action will be in progress at a certain time in the future. This action has begun before the certain time.</li> <li>Something happens because it normally happens.</li> </ul>	<b>will + be + infinitive + ing</b>	I'll be working. He'll be working. I'll be going. He'll be going.	I won't be working. He won't be working. I won't be going. He won't be going.	Will I be working? Will he be working? Will I be going? Will he be going?
<b>Future Perfect Simple</b>		sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future	<b>will + have + past participle*</b> *(infinitive + ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I'll have worked. He'll have worked. I'll have gone. He'll have gone.	I won't have worked. He won't have worked. I won't have gone. He won't have gone.	Will I have worked? Will he have worked? Will I have gone? Will he have gone?
<b>Future Perfect Progressive</b>		sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future  <b>emphasis: length of time of an action</b>	<b>will + have + been + infinitive + ing</b>	I'll have been working. He'll have been working. I'll have been going. He'll have been going.	I won't have been working. He won't have been working. I won't have been going. He won't have been going.	Will I have been working? Will he have been working? Will I have been going? Will he have been going?
<b>Conditional Simple</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sth. that might happen</li> <li>main clause in type II of the Conditional sentences</li> </ul>	<b>would + infinitive</b>	I would work. He would work. I would go. He would go.	I wouldn't work. He wouldn't work. I wouldn't go. He wouldn't go.	Would I work? Would he work? Would I go? Would he go?

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<b>Conditional Progressive</b>		sth. that might happen  <b>emphasis: length of time of an action</b>	<b>would + be + infinitive + ing</b>	I <b>would be working</b> . He <b>would be working</b> . I <b>would be going</b> . He <b>would be going</b> .	I <b>wouldn't be working</b> . He <b>wouldn't be working</b> . I <b>wouldn't be going</b> . He <b>wouldn't be going</b> .	<b>Would I be working?</b> <b>Would he be working?</b> <b>Would I be going?</b> <b>Would he be going?</b>
<b>Conditional Perfect</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sth. that might have happened in the past</li> <li>main clause in type III of the Conditional sentences</li> </ul>	<b>would + have + past participle*</b>  *( <b>infinitive + ed</b> ) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I <b>would have worked</b> . He <b>would have worked</b> . I <b>would have gone</b> . He <b>would have gone</b> .	I <b>wouldn't have worked</b> . He <b>wouldn't have worked</b> . I <b>wouldn't have gone</b> . He <b>wouldn't have gone</b> .	<b>Would I have worked?</b> <b>Would he have worked?</b> <b>Would I have gone?</b> <b>Would he have gone?</b>
<b>Conditional Perfect Progressive</b>		sth. that might have happened in the past  <b>emphasis: length of time of an action</b>	<b>would + have + been + infinitive + ing</b>	I <b>would have been working</b> . He <b>would have been working</b> . I <b>would have been going</b> . He <b>would have been going</b> .	I <b>wouldn't have been working</b> . He <b>wouldn't have been working</b> . I <b>wouldn't have been going</b> . He <b>wouldn't have been going</b> .	<b>Would I have been working?</b> <b>Would he have been working?</b> <b>Would I have been going?</b> <b>Would he have been going?</b>

We sometimes use **Continuous** instead of **Progressive**. Some signal words can be found in more tenses. We have not listed signal words in the future. Always remember what action is described.

Used colours:

blue → infinitive

dark green → auxiliary

orange → ending

grey → irregular verbs in the Simple Past

purple → past participle

light green → signal word

red → negation