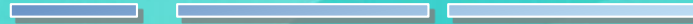


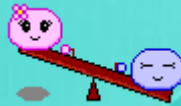


The system of English Tenses



TENSE AND TIME

A tense is
an inflectional
(флективная)
form of a verb
expressing
a specific time
distinction.



Time is
a measurable period
during which
an action, process,
condition
exists or continues.

*Merriam Webster's
Collegiate Dictionary*

The three tenses are

× past



× present



× future



Groups of English Tenses

- × Indefinite/ Simple;
- × Continous/ Progressive;
- × Perfect;
- × Perfect Progressive.



indefinite\ simple tenses

× Meaning:

actions happening regularly, at certain intervals (routine) or successions of actions (narration);

× General formula:

to V

Progressive Tenses

× Meaning:

actions happening at certain moments/ periods of time;

× General formula:

to be Ving.

Perfect Tenses

× Meaning:

actions completed by certain moments/periods of time;

× General formula:

to have Ved/3.

Perfect Progressive Tenses

× **Meaning:**

actions partially completed by certain moments of time and still going on at those periods of time;

actions recently completed by certain moments of time and having evident results;

× **General formula:**

to have been Ved/3.

	Simple	Progressi -ve	Perfect	Perfect Progressive
Infinitive	to V	to be Ving	to have Ved/3	to have been Ved/3
Past	Ved	was/were Ving	had Ved/3	had been Ving
Present	V (s)	am/ is/ are Ving	have/ has Ved/3	have/ has been Ving
Future	shall*/ will V	will be Ving	will have Ved/3	will have been Ving

Past Simple

- × **Meaning:**

past routines, narration in the past;

- × **Auxiliary verb:**

did;

- × **Tense Markers (Adverbial Modifiers):**

yesterday, last year, a week ago,
when, in 1999; first, then, after that;



+ I passed the test *yesterday*.

- I did not fail the test *yesterday*.

? Did I fail the test *yesterday*? No, I did not.

? When did I pass the test?

I passed the test *yesterday*.

? Who passed the test *yesterday*? I did.

- + He went to the cinema *last week*.
- He did not go to the theatre *last week*.
- ? Did he go to the cinema? Yes, he did.
- ? Where did he go *last week*?
He went to cinema *last week*.
- ? Who went to the cinema? He did.



Present Simple

- × **Meaning:**

routine; a universal truth; a succession of actions; a universal truth; a future action in *if-*, *when-* clauses;

- × **Auxiliary verbs:**

do, does (*he, she, it*);

- × **Markers:**

every day, sometimes, always, seldom, often, usually, on Sundays; first, then, after that.

- × **Example:** do;

- × **Example:** does;



- + I *often* listen to the music in summer.
- I do not ski in summer.
- ? Do I listen to the music in summer? Yes, I do.
- ? When do I listen to the music? - In summer.
- ? Who listens to the music in summer? I do.



+ He goes to the gym *on Sundays*.

- He does not go to the stadium.

? Does he go to the stadium?

No, he does not.

? Why does he go to the gym?

He goes to the gym to be fit.

? Who goes to the gym? He does.



Future Simple

× Meaning:

plans for the future (*at the moment of speech, not quite sure*); predictions and foretelling;

× Auxiliary verbs:

shall (I, we) – outdated, will;

× Markers:

tomorrow, next week, in a month,
in 2010;

+ I will run *tomorrow*.

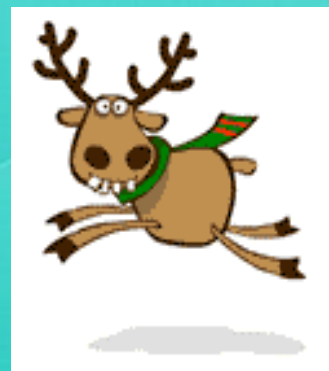
- I will not ski *tomorrow*.

? Will I ski *tomorrow* ? No, I will not (won't).

? What will I do *tomorrow* ?

I will run *tomorrow*.

? Who will run *tomorrow* ? I will.



Past Progressive

× **Meaning:**

an action happening at a certain moment in the past/
simultaneously (одновременно) with another past
action;

× **Auxiliary verbs: was (*I, he, she, it*), were;**

× **Markers:**

at 5 o'clock/ at that time yesterday, while,
when he came;

+ He was reading *when I came*.

- He was not sleeping *when I came*.

? Was he sleeping?

No, he was not (wasn't).

? What was she doing *when I came*?

She was watching TV *when I came*.

? Who was watching TV *when I came*?

She was.



Present Progressive

- × **Meaning:**

- an action happening at the moment of speech;

- × **Auxiliary verbs:**

- am (I), is (he, she, it), are (you, we, they);*

- × **Markers:**

- now, at the moment, at this moment

+ I am writing *now*.

- I not reading *now*.

? Am I reading *now*?

No, I am not (aren't).

? What am I doing *now*?

I am writing *now*.

? Who is writing *now*? *I am*.



× Meaning:

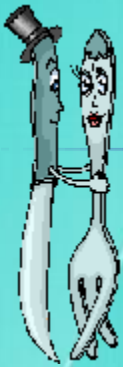
an action that will be happening at a certain moment in the future;

× Auxiliary verbs:

shall*/ will;

× Markers:

*at 5 o'clock/ at this time tomorrow, while,
when he comes;*



+ I will be cooking dinner *while you will be watching TV.*

- I will not be reading a book.

? Will I be reading a book *at that moment?*

No, I won't.

? What will I be doing?

I will be cooking dinner.

? Who will be cooking dinner?

I will.



× Meaning:

an action completed **by** a certain moment/ another action in the past;

× Auxiliary verb:

had;

× Markers:

by 5 o'clock/ that time yesterday, when he came;



- + She had built the wall *when the teacher came*.
- She had not written the letter.
- ? Had she written the letter? No she hadn't.
- ? What had she done *when the teacher came*?
- ? *Who* had built the wall *when the teacher came*? They had.

- × **Meaning:**

a recent action in the past (*time period is unknown*), the result is connected with the present; an action taking place in some period of time, not completed (*with non-continuous verbs*);

- × **Auxiliary verbs:**

have, has (*he, she, it*);

- × **Markers:**

already, so far, recently, this week, today,
just (+), yet (-, ?), *never, ever*; since, for;

- × **Example.**

+ I have *recently* bought a new coat.

- I have not bought a new hat yet.

? Have I bought a new hat yet?

No, I haven't.

? When have I bought a new coat?

? Who has bought a new coat? I have.

× **Meaning:**

an action that will be completed **by** a certain moment/
another action in the future;

× **Auxiliary verbs:**

shall*/ will;

× **Markers:**

by 5 o'clock/ that time tomorrow, when he comes;

× **Example.**

+ I will have written the letter *when you come*.

- I will not have posted it.

? Will I have written the letter? Yes, I will.

? What will I have written?

I will have written the letter.

? Who will have written the letter?

I will.

× **Meaning:**

a past action *partially completed* **by** a certain moment/
another action in the past and *still going on* at that
moment;

× **Auxiliary verb:**

had;

× **Markers:**

by 5 o'clock/ that time yesterday, when he came; for,
since;

× **Example.**

+ I had been doing housework *for* an hour
when they came.

- I had not been reading a book.

? Had I been doing housework for an hour?

Yes, I had.

? How long had I had been doing housework
when they came?

? Who had been doing housework
for an hour? I had.

- × **Meaning:**

an action has been *partially completed* **by** the moment of speech and *still going on* at that moment;

a *recently completed* action which *results are connected with the present*;

- × **Auxiliary verbs:**

have, has;

- × **Markers:**

for (в течение), since (с тех пор, как); How long; Since when;

- × **Example.**

+ I have been reading the book *since* 2 o'clock.

- I have not been sleeping.

? Have I been sleeping? No, I haven't.

? Since when have I been reading the book?

I have been reading the book *since* 2.

? Who has been reading the book?

I have.

× **Meaning:**

an action will be *partially completed* **by** a certain moment/ another action in the future and will be *still going on* at that moment;

× **Auxiliary verbs:**

shall*/ will;

× **Markers:**

by 5 o'clock/ that time tomorrow, when he comes; for, since;

× **Example.**

+ I will have been swimming *for an hour when you come.*

- I will not have been running.

? Will I have been running for an hour when you come? No, I won't.

? How long will I have been swimming *when you come?*

? *Who* will have been swimming *for an hour? I will.*