

English Verb Tenses - Meanings of Tenses

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Perfect Progressive
Present	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regularly occurring actions in the present 2. Stative verbs that tell actions happening right now 3. Future actions that are scheduled 4. Future actions that are in a time clause 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actions that are happening at the moment of speaking 2. Subject began an activity before the moment of speaking and will finish it after the moment of speaking but is not involved in the activity exactly at the moment of speaking. 3. Future actions that are already planned 4. Stative verbs when their meaning is not stative meaning 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The action happened sometime before the moment of speaking. 2. The action happened multiple times before the moment of speaking, and all of those actions are finished. 3. The action began in the past and has continued until the moment of speaking. The amount of time is usually included with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The action began in the past and will likely continue into the future. The speaker might not be involved in the activity exactly at the moment of speaking. The amount of time is usually included with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. 2. The subject was recently involved in an activity that still affects them at the moment of speaking.
Past	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action in the past period of time or at a certain past moment of time 2. Stative verbs that should be in past progressive 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subject was in the middle of an action at a certain past time. 2. The subject was in the middle of an action when another action happened. 3. The actions that are described are background information for more important events. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The action finished sometime before a certain past time. 2. The action finished before another action in the past. 3. The action happened multiple times before a certain past time, and all of those actions are finished. 4. The action began in the past and continued until a certain past time. The amount of time is usually included with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The action began before a certain point in the past and may or may not have continued after that point. The amount of time is usually included with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. 2. The action began before another action in the past and may or may not have continued after that point. The amount of time is usually included with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. 3. The subject was involved in an activity before a certain past time that still affected them at that past time.
“Will” Future	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prediction about the future 2. Decisions about the future that are made at the moment of speaking 3. Stative verbs that should be in future progressive 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The subject will be in the middle of an action at a certain future time. 2. The subject will be in the middle of an action when another action happens. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The action finishes sometime before a certain future time. 2. The action finishes before another action in the future. 3. The action will have happened multiple times before a certain future time, and all of those actions will have finished. 4. The action began before and continued until a certain future time. The amount of time is usually included with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The action begins before a certain point in the future and may or may not continue after that point. The amount of time is usually included with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. 2. The action begins before another action in the future and may or may not continue after that point. The amount of time is usually included with <i>for</i> or <i>since</i>. 3. The subject will have been involved in an activity before a certain future time that still will affect them at that future time.