

Table of English Tenses

Tense	Signal words	Use	Form	Examples affirmative	Examples negative	Examples interrogative
Simple Present or Present Simple	every day sometimes always often usually seldom never first ... then	something happens repeatedly	infinitive he/she/it + -s	I work .	I don't work .	Do I work?
		how often something happens		He works .	He doesn't work .	Does he work?
		one action follows another		I go .	I don't go .	Do I go?
		things in general		He goes .	He doesn't go .	Does he go?
Present Progressive or Present Continuous	now at the moment Look! Listen!	something is happening at the same time of speaking or around it	to be (am/are/is) + infinitive + -ing	I'm working .	I'm not working .	Am I working?
		future meaning: when you have already decided and arranged to do it (a fixed plan, date)		He's working .	He isn't working .	Is he working?
				I'm going .	I'm not going .	Am I going?
				He's going .	He isn't going .	Is he going?
Simple Past or Past Simple	last ago in 1990 yesterday	action took place in the past, mostly connected with an expression of time (no connection to the present)	regular: infinitive + -ed irregular: 2nd column of table of irregular verbs	I worked .	I didn't work .	Did I work?
				He worked .	He didn't work .	Did he work?
				I went .	I didn't go .	Did I go?
				He went .	He didn't go .	Did he go?
Past Progressive or Past Continuous	while	an action happened in the middle of another action	was/were + infinitive + -ing	I was working .	I wasn't working .	Was I working?
		someone was doing sth. at a certain time (in the past) - you do not know whether it was finished or not		He was working .	He wasn't working .	Was he working?
				I was going .	I wasn't going .	Was I going?
				He was going .	He wasn't going .	Was he going?
Simple Present Perfect or Present Perfect	just yet never ever already so far, up to now, since for recently	you say that sth. has happened or is finished in the past and it has a connection to the present	have/has + past participle* *(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I have worked .	I haven't worked .	Have I worked?
				He has worked .	He hasn't worked .	Has he worked?
				I have gone .	I haven't gone .	Have I gone?
				He has gone .	He hasn't gone .	Has he gone?
Present Perfect Progressive or Present Perfect Continuous	all day the whole day how long since for	action began in the past and has just stopped	have/has + been + infinitive + -ing	I have been working .	I haven't been working .	Have I been working?
		how long the action has been happening		He has been working .	He hasn't been working .	Has he been working?
		emphasis: length of time of an action		I have been going .	I haven't been going .	Have I been going?
				He has been going .	He hasn't been going .	Has he been going?
Simple Past Perfect or Past Perfect (Simple)	already just never	mostly when two actions in a story are related to each other: the action which had already happened is put into Past Perfect, the other action into Simple Past	had + past participle* *(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I had worked .	I hadn't worked .	Had I worked?
		the past of the Present Perfect		He had worked .	He hadn't worked .	Had he worked?
				I had gone .	I hadn't gone .	Had I gone?
				He had gone .	He hadn't gone .	Had he gone?

Past Perfect Progressive or Past Perfect Continuous	how long since for	how long something had been happening before something else happened	had + been + infinitive + ing	I had been working .	I hadn't been working .	Had I been working ?
				He had been working .	He hadn't been working .	Had he been working ?
				I had been going .	I hadn't been going .	Had I been going ?
				He had been going .	He hadn't been going .	Had he been going ?
will - future		<p>predictions about the future (you think that sth. will happen)</p> <p>you decide to do sth. spontaneously at the time of speaking, you haven't made a decision before</p> <p>main clause in type I of the if clauses</p>	will + infinitive	I 'll work .	I won't work .	Will I work ?
				He 'll work .	He won't work .	Will he work ?
				I 'll go .	I won't go .	Will I go ?
				He 'll go .	He won't go .	Will he go ?
going to - future		<p>when you have already decided to do sth. in the future</p> <p>what you think what will happen</p>	be (am/are/is) + going to + infinitive	I 'm going to work .	I 'm not going to work .	Am I going to work ?
				He 's going to work .	He 's not going to work .	Is he going to work ?
				I 'm going to go .	I 'm not going to go .	Am I going to go ?
				He 's going to go .	He 's not going to go .	Is he going to go ?
Future Progressive or Future Continuous		<p>An action will be in progress at a certain time in the future. This action has begun before the certain time.</p> <p>Something happens because it normally happens.</p>	will + be + infinitive + ing	I 'll be working .	I won't be working .	Will I be working ?
				He 'll be working .	He won't be working .	Will he be working ?
				I 'll be going .	I won't be going .	Will I be going ?
				He 'll be going .	He won't be going .	Will he be going ?
Simple Future Perfect or Future Perfect Simple		sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future	will + have + past participle* *(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I 'll have worked .	I won't have worked .	Will I have worked ?
				He 'll have worked .	He won't have worked .	Will he have worked ?
				I 'll have gone .	I won't have gone .	Will I have gone ?
				He 'll have gone .	He won't have gone .	Will he have gone ?
Future Perfect Progressive or Future Perfect Continuous		<p>sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future</p> <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	will + have + been + infinitive + ing	I 'll have been working .	I won't have been working .	Will I have been working ?
				He 'll have been working .	He won't have been working .	Will he have been working ?
				I 'll have been going .	I won't have been going .	Will I have been working ?
				He 'll have been going .	He won't have been going .	Will he have been working ?
Conditional Simple		<p>sth. that might happen</p> <p>main clause in type II of the if-clauses</p>	would + infinitive	I would work .	I wouldn't work .	Would I work ?
				He would work .	He wouldn't work .	Would he work ?
				I would go .	I wouldn't go .	Would I go ?
				He would go .	He wouldn't go .	Would he go ?
Conditional Progressive or Conditional Continuous		<p>sth. that might happen</p> <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	would + be + infinitive + ing	I would be working .	I wouldn't be working .	Would I be working ?
				He would be working .	He wouldn't be working .	Would he be working ?
				I would be going .	I wouldn't be going .	Would I be going ?
				He would be going .	He wouldn't be going .	Would he be going ?
Conditional Perfect		<p>sth. that might have happened in the past (It's too late now.)</p> <p>main clause in type III of the if clauses</p>	will + have + past participle* *(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)	I would have worked .	I wouldn't have worked .	Would I have worked ?
				He would have worked .	He wouldn't have worked .	Would he have worked ?
				I would have gone .	I wouldn't have gone .	Would I have gone ?
				He would have gone .	He wouldn't have gone .	Would he have gone ?

					gone.	gone?
				He would have gone.	He wouldn't have gone.	Would I have gone?
Conditional Perfect Progressive or Conditional Perfect Continuous		sth. that might have happened in the past (It's too late now.) emphasis: length of time of an action	would + have + been + infinitive + ing	I would have been working.	I wouldn't have been working.	Would I have been working?
				He would have been going.	He wouldn't have been going.	Would he have been working?
				I would have been going.	I wouldn't have been going.	Would I have been going?
				He would have been going.	He wouldn't have been going.	Would he have been going?