



VERBS IN ENGLISH

Subject: English Language - Lecture # 8

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- The word **Tense** is derived from latin word “**tempus**” which means time.

the time frame:

- ✓ Present Tense
- ✓ Past Tense
- ✓ Future Tense

- A verb indicates the time of an action, event or condition by changing its form.

PRESENT

There are four present tenses in English. Use the present tense to talk about something that is going on now or that is true now and any time.

- Simple present to express habits and general truths.
 - **They walk home.**
- Present continuous to talk about an action happening now.
 - **They are walking home.**
- Present perfect for repeated actions, actions where the time is not important, and actions that began in the past but are not finished yet.
 - **I have lived here since 1987.**
- Present perfect continuous to talk about ongoing actions where both the process and the result are important.
 - **I have been living here for years.**

1- SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

- The simple present tense is one of several forms of present tense in English. It is used to describe **habits, unchanging situations, general truths, and fixed arrangements.**
- The simple present tense is simple to form. Just use the base form of the verb: (**I take, you take, we take, they take**) The 3rd person singular takes an -s at the end. (**he takes, she takes**)
- **The simple present is not used to express actions happening now.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For habits<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ He drinks tea at breakfast.➤ She only eats fish.➤ They watch television regularly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For repeated actions or events<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ We catch the bus every morning.➤ It rains every afternoon in the hot season.➤ They drive to Monaco every summer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For general truths<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Water freezes at zero degrees.➤ The Earth revolves around the Sun.➤ Her mother is Peruvian.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For instructions or directions<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Open the packet and pour the contents into hot water.➤ You take the No.6 bus to Watney and then the No.10 to Bedford.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For fixed arrangements<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ His mother arrives tomorrow.➤ Our holiday starts on the 26th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With future constructions<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ She'll see you before she leaves.➤ We'll give it to her when she arrives.

- **FORMING THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE: TO THINK**

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I think	Do I think?	I do not think
You think	Do you think?	You do not think
He thinks	Does he think?	He does not think
She thinks	Does she think?	She does not think
It thinks	Does it think?	It does not think
We think	Do we think?	We do not think.
They think	Do they think?	They do not think.

□NOTES ON THE SIMPLE PRESENT, THIRD PERSON SINGULAR

- In the third person singular the verb **always ends in -s**:
he wants, she needs, he gives, she thinks.
- Negative and question forms use DOES (= the third person of the auxiliary 'DO') + the infinitive of the verb.
He wants ice cream. Does he want strawberry? He does not want vanilla.
- Verbs ending in **-y** : the third person changes the **-y** to **-ies**:
fly --> flies, cry --> cries
Exception: if there is a vowel before the **-y**:
play --> plays, pray --> prays
- Add **-es** to verbs ending in: **-ss, -x, -sh, -ch**:
he passes, she catches, he fixes, it pushes
 - **He goes** to school every morning.
 - **She understands** English.
 - **It mixes** the sand and the water.
 - **He tries** very hard.
 - **She enjoys** playing the piano.

2- PRESENT CONTINUOUS

As with all tenses in English, the ***speaker's attitude*** is as important as the time of the action or event. When someone uses the present continuous, they are thinking about something that is ***unfinished or incomplete***

THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS IS USED:

- to describe an action that is going on at this moment:
 - ***You are using the Internet. You are studying English grammar.***
- to describe an action that is going on during this period of time or a trend:
 - ***Are you still working for the same company?***
 - ***More and more people are becoming vegetarian.***

- to describe an action or event in the future, which has already been planned or prepared:
 - ***We're going on holiday tomorrow.***
 - ***I'm meeting my friend tonight.***
 - ***Are they visiting** you next winter?*
- to describe a temporary event or situation:
 - ***He usually plays the drums, but he's playing bass guitar tonight.***
 - ***The weather forecast was good, but it's raining at the moment.***
- with "always, forever, constantly", to describe and emphasis a continuing series of repeated actions:
 - ***Harry and Sally are always arguing! You're constantly complaining about your mother-in-law!***

FORMING THE PRESENT CONTINUOUS

- The present continuous of any verb is composed of two parts - *the present tense of the verb to be + the present participle of the main verb.*
(The form of the present participle is: *base+ing*, e.g. *talking, playing, moving, smiling*)

Affirmative		
Subject	+ to be	+ base + ing
She	is	talking.
Negative		
Subject	+ to be + not	+ base + ing
She	is not (isn't)	talking
Interrogative		
to be	+ subject	+ base + ing
Is	she	talking?

• VERBS THAT ARE NOT USUALLY USED IN THE CONTINUOUS FORM

The verbs in the list below are normally used in the simple form because they refer to ***states***, rather than actions or processes.

SENSES / PERCEPTION	OPINION	MENTAL STATES	MEASUREMENT	EMOTIONS / DESIRES	OTHERS
to feel* to hear to see* to smell to taste	to assume to believe to consider to doubt to feel (= to think) to find (= to consider) to suppose to think*	to forget to imagine to know to mean to notice to recognize to remember to understand	to contain to cost to hold to measure to weigh	to envy to fear to dislike to hate to hope to like to love to mind to prefer to regret to want to wish	to look (=resemble) to seem to be (<i>in most cases</i>) to have(<i>when it means "to possess"</i>)*

EXCEPTIONS

- Perception verbs (see, hear, feel, taste, smell) are often used with *can*: : *I can see...* These verbs may be used in the continuous form but with a different meaning
 - *This coat feels nice and warm.* (your perception of the coat's qualities)
 - *John's feeling much better now* (his health is improving)
 - *She has three dogs and a cat.* (possession)
 - *She's having supper.* (She's eating)
 - *I can see Anthony in the garden* (perception)
 - *I'm seeing Anthony later* (We are planning to meet)

3- PRESENT PERFECT

- The present perfect is used to indicate a link between the present and the past.
- The time of the action is **before now but not specified**, and we are often more interested in the **result** than in the action itself.

THE PRESENT PERFECT IS USED TO DESCRIBE

- An action or situation that started in the past and continues in the present. *I **have lived** in Bristol since 1984* (= and I still do.)
- An action performed during a period that has not yet finished. *She **has been** to the cinema twice this week* (= and the week isn't over yet.)
- A repeated action in an unspecified period between the past and now. *We **have visited** Portugal several times.*
- An action that was completed in the very recent past, expressed by 'just'. *I **have just finished** my work.*
- An action when the time is not important. *He **has read** 'War and Peace'.* (= the result of his reading is important)

- **ACTIONS STARTED IN THE PAST AND CONTINUING IN THE PRESENT**

- They *haven't lived* here for years.
- She *has worked* in the bank for five years.
- We *have had* the same car for ten years.
- *Have you played* the piano since you were a child?

- **WHEN THE TIME PERIOD REFERRED TO HAS NOT FINISHED**

- *I have worked* hard *this week*.
- It *has rained* a lot *this year*.
- We *haven't seen* her *today*.

- **ACTIONS REPEATED IN AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD BETWEEN THE PAST AND NOW.**

- They *have seen* that film six times
- It *has happened* several times already.
- She *has visited* them frequently.
- We *have eaten* at that restaurant many times.

- **ACTIONS COMPLETED IN THE VERY RECENT PAST (+JUST)**
 - *Have you just finished* work?
 - *I have just eaten.*
 - *We have just seen* her.
 - *Has he just left?*
- **WHEN THE PRECISE TIME OF THE ACTION IS NOT IMPORTANT OR NOT KNOWN**
 - Someone *has eaten* my soup!
 - *Have you seen* 'Gone with the Wind'?
 - *She's studied* Japanese, Russian, and English.

FORMING THE PRESENT PERFECT

- The present perfect of any verb is composed of two elements: the appropriate form of the auxiliary verb **to have** (present tense), plus the past participle of the main verb. The past participle of a regular verb is **base+ed**, e.g. *played, arrived, looked*. For irregular verbs, see the **Table of irregular verbs**

Affirmative			Interrogative		
Subject	to have	past participle	to have	subject	past participle
She	has	visited.	Has	she	visited?
Negative			Negative interrogative		
Subject	to have + not	past participle	to have + not	subject	past participle
She	has not (hasn't)	visited.	Hasn't	she	visited?

• TO WALK, PRESENT PERFECT

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I have walked	I haven't walked	Have I walked?
You have walked	You haven't walked.	Have you walked?
He, she, it has walked	He, she, hasn't walked	Has he, she, it walked?
We have walked	We haven't walked	Have we walked?
You have walked	You haven't walked	Have you walked?
They have walked	They haven't walked	Have they walked?

4- PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- The present perfect continuous is used to refer to an **unspecified time** between 'before now' and 'now'.
- The speaker is thinking about something that started but perhaps did not finish in that period of time. He/she is interested in the **process as well as the result**, and this process may still be going on, or may have just finished.

- **ACTIONS THAT STARTED IN THE PAST AND CONTINUE IN THE PRESENT**

- **She has been waiting** for you all day (= and she's still waiting now).
- **I've been working** on this report since eight o'clock this morning (= and I still haven't finished it).
- **They have been travelling** since last October (= and they're not home yet).

- **ACTIONS THAT HAVE JUST FINISHED, BUT WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS**

- **She has been cooking** since last night (= and the food on the table looks delicious).
- **It's been raining** (= and the streets are still wet).
- **Someone's been eating** my chips (= half of them have gone).

FORMING THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- The present perfect continuous is made up of two elements: the present perfect of the verb '*to be*' (have/has been), and the present participle of the main verb (base+ing)

Subject	has/have been	base+ing
She	has been	swimming

Affirmative: She has been / She's been running.

Negative: She hasn't been running.

Interrogative : Has she been running?

Interrogative negative: Hasn't she been running?

- **EXAMPLE: PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS, TO LIVE**

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I have been living	I haven't been living	Have I been living?
You have been living	You haven't been living	Have you been living?
He, she, it has been living	He hasn't been living	Has she been living?
We have been living	We haven't been living	Have we been living?
You have been living	You haven't been living	Have you been living?
They have been living	They haven't been living	Have they been living?

• VERBS WITHOUT CONTINUOUS FORMS

With verbs not normally used in the continuous form, use the simple present perfect instead (verbs such as: know, hate, hear, understand, want).

- **I've wanted** to visit China for years.
- **She's known** Robert since she was a child.
- **I've hated** that music since I first heard it.
- **I've heard** a lot about you recently.
- **We've understood** everything.

PAST

There are four past tenses in English. Use them to talk about things that started and ended in the past or things that started in the past and continue to the present.

- Simple Past for actions starting and ending in the past.
 - **Peter lived in China in 1965.**
- Past Continuous for actions starting in the past and continuing to the present.
 - **I was reading when she arrived.**
- Past Perfect for actions that started and ended in the past before another action that is also in the past.
 - **We had been to see her several times before she visited us.**
- Past Perfect Continuous for actions that were going on in the past up until another action in the past happened.
 - **He had been watching her for some time when she turned and smiled.**

1- SIMPLE PAST TENSE

- The simple past tense, sometimes called the preterite, is used to talk about a **completed action** in a time **before now**.
- The simple past is the basic form of past tense in English. The time of the action can be in the recent past or the distant past and action duration is not important.
 - John Cabot **sailed** to America in 1498.
 - My father **died** last year.
 - He **lived** in Fiji in 1976.
 - We **crossed** the Channel yesterday.

- You always use the simple past when you say **when** something happened, so it is associated with certain past time expressions
- **frequency**: *often, sometimes, always*
 - I **sometimes walked** home at lunchtime.
 - I **often brought** my lunch to school.
- **a definite point in time**: *last week, yesterday, six weeks ago*
 - We **saw** a good film *last week*.
 - *Yesterday*, I **arrived** in Geneva.
 - She **finished** her work at *seven o'clock*
 - I **went** to the theatre *last night*
- **an indefinite point in time**: *the other day, ages ago, a long time ago*
People **lived** in caves *a long time ago*.
 - She **played** the piano *when she was a child*.

the word ago is a useful way of expressing the distance into the past. It is placed **after** the period of time: *a week ago, three years ago, a minute ago*.

• FORMING THE SIMPLE PAST TENSE

PATTERNS OF SIMPLE PAST TENSE FOR REGULAR VERBS

Affirmative			Interrogative		
Subject	+ verb + ed		Did	+ subject	+ infinitive without to
I	skipped.		Did	she	arrive?
Negative			Interrogative negative		
Subject	+ did not	+ infinitive without to	Did not	+ subject	+ infinitive without to
They	didn't	go.	Didn't	you	play?

- Example: **TO WALK**

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I walked	I didn't walk	Did I walk?
You walked	You didn't walk	Did you walk?
He walked	He didn't walk	Did he walk?
We walked	We didn't walk	Did we walk?
They walked	They didn't walk	Did they walk?

- **SIMPLE PAST TENSE OF TO BE, TO HAVE, TO DO**

Subject	Verb		
	Be	Have	Do
I	was	had	did
You	were	had	did
He/She/It	was	had	did
We	were	had	did
You	were	had	did
They	were	had	did

NOTES ON AFFIRMATIVE, NEGATIVE, & INTERROGATIVE FORMS

□AFFIRMATIVE

- The affirmative of the simple past tense is simple.
- I **was** in Japan last year
- She **had** a headache yesterday.
- We **did** our homework last night.

❑NEGATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE

- For the negative and interrogative simple past form of "*do*" as an ordinary verb, use the auxiliary "*do*", e.g. **We didn't do our homework last night.**
- The negative of "*have*" in the simple past is usually formed using the auxiliary "*do*", but sometimes by simply adding *not* or the contraction "*n't*".
- The interrogative form of "*have*" in the simple past normally uses the auxiliary "*do*".
 - **They weren't in Rio last summer.**
 - **We didn't have any money.**
 - **We didn't have time to visit the Eiffel Tower.**
 - **We didn't do our exercises this morning.**
 - **Were they in Iceland last January?**
 - **Did you have a bicycle when you were young?**
 - **Did you do much climbing in Switzerland?**
- For the negative and interrogative form of **all** verbs in the simple past, always use the auxiliary '*did*'.

• SIMPLE PAST, IRREGULAR VERBS

Some verbs are irregular in the simple past. Here are the most common ones.

TO GO

- He **went** to a club last night.
- **Did he go** to the cinema last night?
- He **didn't go** to bed early last night.

TO GIVE

- We **gave** her a doll for her birthday.
- They **didn't give** John their new address.
- **Did Barry give** you my passport?

TO COME

- My parents **came** to visit me last July.
- We **didn't come** because it was raining.
- **Did he come** to your party last week?

2- PAST CONTINUOUS TENSE

- The past continuous describes actions or events in a time **before now**, which began in the past and is **still going on** at the time of speaking. In other words, it expresses an **unfinished or incomplete action** in the past.

- **It is used:**

Often, to describe the background in a story written in the past tense, e.g.

- The sun **was shining** and the birds **were singing** as the elephant came out of the jungle. The other animals **were relaxing** in the shade of the trees, but the elephant moved very quickly. She **was looking** for her baby, and she didn't notice the hunter who **was watching** her through his binoculars. When the shot rang out, she **was running** towards the river...

- to describe an unfinished action that was interrupted by another event or action, e.g.
 - **I was having** a beautiful dream when the alarm clock rang.
 - to express a change of mind: e.g.
 - **I was going** to spend the day at the beach but I've decided to get my homework done instead.
 - with '*wonder*', to make a very polite request: e.g.
 - **I was wondering** if you could baby-sit for me tonight.
- Note:** with verbs not normally used in the continuous form, the simple past is used.
- They were waiting for the bus when the accident happened.
 - Caroline was skiing when she broke her leg.
 - When we arrived he was having a bath.
 - When the fire started I was watching television.

• FORMING THE PAST CONTINUOUS

The past continuous of any verb is composed of two parts : the past tense of the verb "*to be*" (*was/were*), and the base of the main verb *+ing*.

Subject	was/were	base + ing
They	were	watching
Affirmative		
She	was	reading
Negative		
She	wasn't	reading
Interrogative		
Was	she	reading?
Interrogative negative		
Wasn't	she	reading?

FUTURE

There are four future verb tenses in English.

Simple future tense

- To predict a future event
 - **It will rain tomorrow.**
- With / or /We, to express a spontaneous decision
 - **I'll pay for the tickets by credit card.**
- To express willingness
 - **He'll carry your bag for you.**
- In the negative form, to express unwillingness
 - **The baby won't eat his soup.**
- With / in the interrogative form using "shall", to make an offer
 - **Shall I open the window?**

- With *we* in the interrogative form using "shall", to make a suggestion
 - **Shall we go to the cinema tonight?**
- With *I* in the interrogative form using "shall", to ask for advice or instructions
 - **What shall I tell the boss about this money?**
- With *you* to give orders
 - **You will do exactly as I say.**
- With *you* in the interrogative form, to give an invitation
 - **Will you come to the party with me?**

Future continuous tense

The future continuous refers to an unfinished action or event that will be in progress at a time later than now.

- **By Christmas I will be skiing** like a pro.

Future perfect tense

The future perfect tense refers to a completed action in the future.

- **By the time you read this I will have left.**

Future perfect continuous tense

Like the future perfect simple, this form is used to project ourselves forward in time and to look back. It refers to events or actions in a time between now and some future time are unfinished. It is most often used with a time expression.

- **I will have been waiting** here for three hours by six o'clock.

Thank you for your attention

