

Table of English Tenses

<i>tense</i>	<i>Affirmative/Negative/Question</i>	<i>Use</i>	<i>Signal Words</i>
<u>Simple Present</u> <i>do/does</i>	<i>A: He speaks.</i> <i>N: He does not speak.</i> <i>Q: Does he speak?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action in the present taking place once, never or several times</i> • <i>facts</i> • <i>actions taking place one after another</i> • <i>action set by a timetable or schedule</i> 	<i>always, every ..., never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually if sentences type I (If I talk, ...)</i>
<u>Present Progressive</u> <i>be doing</i>	<i>A: He is speaking.</i> <i>N: He is not speaking.</i> <i>Q: Is he speaking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action taking place in the moment of speaking</i> • <i>action taking place only for a limited period of time</i> • <i>action arranged for the future</i> 	<i>at the moment, just, just now, Listen!, Look!, now, right now</i>
<u>Simple Past</u> <i>did</i>	<i>A: He spoke.</i> <i>N: He did not speak.</i> <i>Q: Did he speak?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action in the past taking place once, never or several times</i> • <i>actions taking place one</i> 	<i>yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1990, the other day, last Friday</i>

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		<i>after another</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action taking place in the middle of another action</i> 	<i>if sentence type II</i> <i>(If I talked, ...)</i>
<u>Past Progressive</u> Was were doing	<i>A: He was speaking.</i> <i>N: He was not speaking.</i> <i>Q: Was he speaking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action going on at a certain time in the past</i> • <i>actions taking place at the same time</i> • <i>action in the past that is interrupted by another action</i> 	<i>when, while, as long as</i>
<u>Present Perfect Simple</u> Have/has done	<i>A: He has spoken.</i> <i>N: He has not spoken.</i> <i>Q: Has he spoken?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>putting emphasis on the result</i> • <i>action that is still going on</i> • <i>action that stopped recently</i> • <i>finished action that has an influence on the present</i> • <i>action that has taken place once, never or</i> 	<i>already, ever, just, never, not yet, so far, till now, up to now</i>

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		<i>several times before the moment of speaking</i>	
<u>Present Perfect Progressive</u> <i>Have/has been doing</i>	<i>A: He has been speaking. N: He has not been speaking. Q: Has he been speaking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>putting emphasis on the course or duration (not the result)</i> • <i>action that recently stopped or is still going on</i> • <i>finished action that influenced the present</i> 	<i>all day, for 4 years, since 1993, how long?, the whole week</i>
<u>Past Perfect Simple</u> <i>Had done</i>	<i>A: He had spoken. N: He had not spoken. Q: Had he spoken?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action taking place before a certain time in the past</i> • <i>sometimes interchangeable with past perfect progressive</i> • <i>putting emphasis only on the fact (not the duration)</i> 	<i>already, just, never, not yet, once, until that day if sentence type III (If I had talked, ...)</i>
<u>Past Perfect Progressive</u> <i>Had been doing</i>	<i>A: He had been speaking. N: He had not been speaking. Q: Had he been speaking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action taking place before a certain time in the past</i> • <i>sometimes interchangeable with past</i> 	<i>for, since, the whole day, all day</i>

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		<i>perfect simple</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>putting emphasis on the duration or course of an action</i> 	
<u>Future I Simple</u> Will do	A: <i>He will speak.</i> N: <i>He will not speak.</i> Q: <i>Will he speak?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action in the future that cannot be influenced</i> • <i>spontaneous decision</i> • <i>assumption with regard to the future</i> 	<i>in a year, next ..., tomorrow</i> <i>If-Satz Typ I (If you ask her, she will help you.)</i> <i>assumption: I think, probably, perhaps</i>
<u>Future I Simple</u> (going to do)	A: <i>He is going to speak.</i> N: <i>He is not going to speak.</i> Q: <i>Is he going to speak?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>decision made for the future</i> • <i>conclusion with regard to the future</i> 	<i>in one year, next week, tomorrow</i>
<u>Future I Progressive</u> Will be doing	A: <i>He will be speaking.</i> N: <i>He will not be speaking.</i> Q: <i>Will he be speaking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>action that is going on at a certain time in the future</i> • <i>action that is sure to happen in the near future</i> 	<i>in one year, next week, tomorrow</i>

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<u>Future Perfect Simple</u> Will have done	A: He will have spoken. N: He will not have spoken. Q: Will he have spoken?	• action that will be finished at a certain time in the future	by Monday, in a week
<u>Future Perfect Progressive</u> Will have been doing	A: He will have been speaking. N: He will not have been speaking. Q: Will he have been speaking?	• action taking place before a certain time in the future • putting emphasis on the course of an action	for ..., the last couple of hours, all day long
<u>Conditional I Simple</u> Would do	A: He would speak. N: He would not speak. Q: Would he speak?	• action that might take place	if sentences type II (If I were you, I would go home.)
<u>Conditional I Progressive</u> Would be doing	A: He would be speaking. N: He would not be speaking. Q: Would he be speaking?	• action that might take place • putting emphasis on the course / duration of the	

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		<i>action</i>	
<u>Conditional II Simple</u> Would have done	A: <i>He would have spoken.</i> N: <i>He would not have spoken.</i> Q: <i>Would he have spoken?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>action that might have taken place in the past</i> 	<i>if sentences type III (If I had seen that, I would have helped.)</i>
<u>Conditional II Progressive</u> Would have been doing	A: <i>He would have been speaking.</i> N: <i>He would not have been speaking.</i> Q: <i>Would he have been speaking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>action that might have taken place in the past</i> <i>puts emphasis on the course / duration of the action</i> 	