

# English Tenses

## Example Sentences

### Present simple

The sun shines every day.  
Peter gets up at 6a.m. every morning.  
I usually don't drink coffee.

### Present continuous

Oh no, look! It's raining.  
We are eating dinner right now.  
I am currently reading a good book.

### Present perfect simple

Oh no, I have lost my key! I can't get in.  
Lucy is not here. She has just gone shopping.  
Have you ever been to London?

### Present perfect continuous

I'm tired. I have been working all day.  
They have been making improvements.  
She has not been working too hard, lately.

### Past simple

They went out for dinner last night.  
When did you buy this bracelet?  
She didn't want to pay for a taxi, so we walked.

### Past simple continuous

Last Sunday we were having fun at the beach.  
She wasn't really paying attention.  
They were eating dinner when the phone rang.

### Past perfect simple

John had worked in a bar before he became a teacher.

*She had been working hard before she was able to buy her own car.*

### will-Future simple

The weather will be fine tomorrow.  
It's cold, I'll close the window.  
She hasn't studied, yet. She won't pass the exam on Wednesday.

### will-Future continuous

*Tomorrow we will be eating at the Ritz.  
I hope it will be snowing on the weekend.  
She won't be going out with us tonight.*

### going to-Future simple

It is decided! We are going to buy a house next summer.

### going to-Future continuous

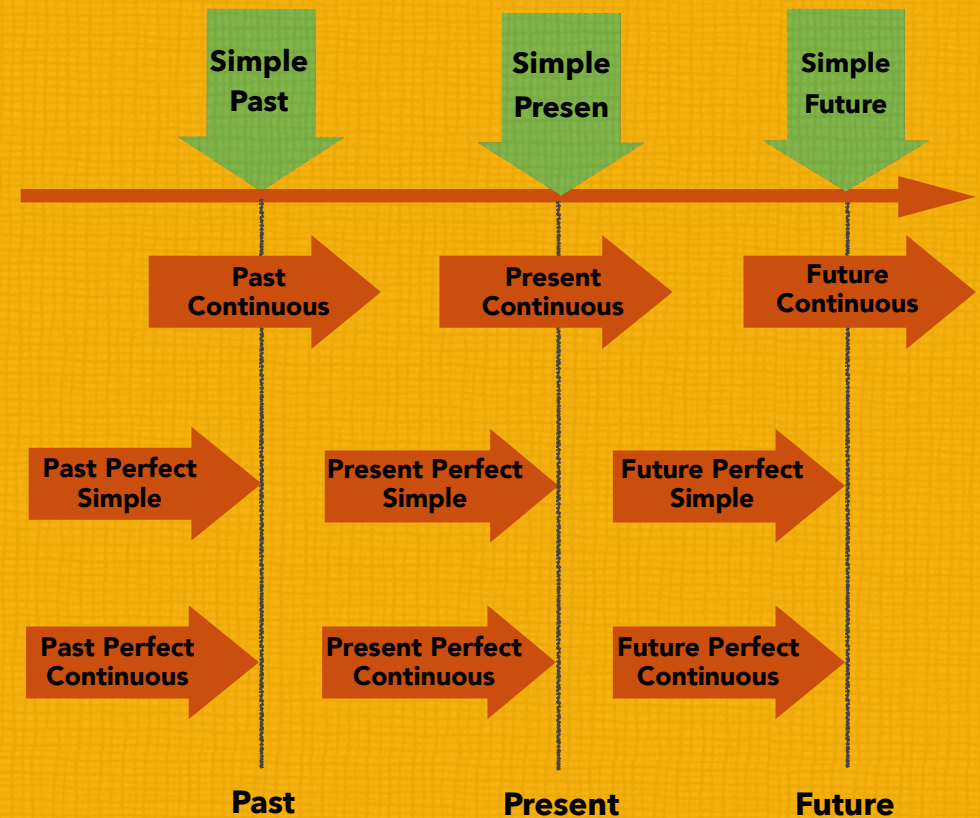
We are going to be sleeping tomorrow morning.

### will-Future perfect simple

After tomorrow I will have worked for ten days in a row.

### will-Future perfect continuous

I'll play tennis for another hour. After that I will have been playing for five hours.



## English Tenses Flow Chart

We use simple tenses whenever we talk about a point in time, e.g. a fact.

We use continuous tenses whenever we talk about a length of time, e.g. an action.

We use perfect tenses whenever we talk about a point in time before another point in time.

Perfect continuous tenses are used whenever we are talking about a length of time up to a point in time.