

4. Verb Tenses (2)

2. Continuous Tense:

What is the Continuous Tense?

The continuous tense (also called the progressive tense) is used to describe actions that **are ongoing, in progress, or happening at a specific moment in time**. It emphasizes that the action is **temporary** or **unfinished**.

The continuous tense focuses on the **duration** or the **progression** of the action, not just the fact that it happened.

What is the Present Continuous Tense?

The **Present Continuous Tense** (also called the **Present Progressive Tense**) is used to describe actions or events that are happening **right now, at the moment of speaking, or around the current time**. It emphasizes that the action is **ongoing** and **in progress**. This tense is also used for **temporary actions** or **future plans**.

Key Uses of the Present Continuous Tense:

1. **Actions Happening Now:** Describes actions that are occurring at the moment of speaking.

Example: "She **is reading** a book." "They **are playing** soccer."

2. **Temporary Actions and Ongoing Situations:** Describes actions that are happening **around the current time** but may not be permanent or to express a situation that is true now but it is not necessary happening in the same time of speaking.

Example: "I **am staying** with my friend this week." "He **is working** on a project this month."

➤ or a **current trend** : Eg: **More and more people are using electric cars.** → This describes a trend that is happening nowadays, not necessarily at the exact moment of speaking.

3. **Future Plans or Arrangements:** Describes planned or scheduled events in the near future (often with a time reference). Plans have already been organized or decided in advance.

Example: "We **are meeting** for dinner tonight." "She **is flying** to Paris tomorrow."

4. **Changing or Developing Situations:** Describes situations that are in the process of changing.

Example: "The weather **is getting** colder." "Technology **is advancing** rapidly."

5. **Annoying or bad Habits (with "always"):** Describes repeated actions that are annoying or irritating (often used with "always").

Example: "He **is always interrupting** me!" "She **is always losing** her keys."

How to Form the Present Continuous Tense: The Present Continuous Tense is formed using:

Subject + am/is/are + present participle (verb + -ing)

Subject	Verb "to be"	Present Participle	Example
I	am	verb + -ing	I am eating lunch.
He/She/It	is	verb + -ing	She is reading a book.
We/You/They	are	verb + -ing	They are playing soccer.

Signal Words for Present Continuous Tense: These words often indicate the use of the Present Continuous Tense:

Now, At the moment, Right now, Currently, Today, This week/month/year, Look! / Listen!

These signal words help identify when the **Present Continuous Tense** is being used to describe actions happening **now, around the current time**, or in the **near future**.

Examples:

- "I **am studying** for my exam **now**."
- "He **is working** on his project **at the moment**."
- "The baby **is sleeping** **right now**."
- "I **am currently** learning Spanish."

- "She **is visiting** her grandparents **today**."
- "He **is traveling** to Japan **this week**."
- "**Look!** The kids **are playing** in the park."
- "**Listen!** The birds **are singing** beautifully."

What is the Past Continuous Tense?

The **Past Continuous Tense** (also called the **Past Progressive Tense**) is used to describe actions or events that were **ongoing or in progress** at a specific time in the **past**. It emphasizes that the action was happening over a period of time and was interrupted by another action or event.

Key Uses of the Past Continuous Tense:

1. Actions in Progress at a Specific Time in the Past: Describes actions that were happening at a particular moment in the past.

Example: "At 8 PM last night, I **was watching** TV." "She **was studying** when I called her."

2. Interrupted Actions in the Past : Describes an ongoing action that was interrupted by another action (often using the **Simple Past Tense**).

Example: "I **was cooking** dinner when the phone rang." "They **were playing** soccer when it started to rain."

3. Parallel Actions in the Past : Describes two or more actions happening at the same time in the past.

Example: "While I **was reading**, my brother **was watching** TV."

"She **was cooking** while he **was cleaning** the house."

4. Setting the Scene in a Story: Used to describe the background or context of a story.

Example: "The sun **was shining**, and the birds **were singing**."

"It **was raining** heavily, and the wind **was blowing**."

How to Form the Past Continuous Tense: The Past Continuous Tense is formed using:

Subject + was/were + present participle (verb + -ing)

Subject	Verb "to be"	Present Participle	Example
I/He/She/It	was	verb + -ing	I was eating dinner.
We/You/They	were	verb + -ing	They were playing soccer.

Signal Words for Past Continuous Tense: These words often indicate the use of the Past Continuous Tense:

While, When, At (a specific time), As, All morning/evening/day, During

Examples:

- "I **was studying** while my brother **was watching** TV."
- "I **was walking** to school **when** it started to rain."
- **At (a specific time) :** "She **was working** on her project **at 10 AM** this morning."
- "**As** I **was walking** home, I saw an old friend."
- "We **were playing** games **all evening**."
- "They **were traveling** **all day** yesterday."
- "She **was reading** a book **during** the flight."
- "They **were discussing** the project **during** the meeting."

What is the Future Continuous Tense?

The **Future Continuous Tense** (also called the **Future Progressive Tense**) is used to describe actions or events that will be **ongoing or in progress** at a specific time in the future. It emphasizes that the action will happen over a period of time and will likely be interrupted or continue beyond that moment.

Key Uses of the Future Continuous Tense:

1. Actions in Progress at a Specific Time in the Future: Describes actions that will be happening at a particular moment in the future.

Example: "At 8 PM tomorrow, I **will be watching** TV." "She **will be studying** at this time next week."

2. Interrupted Actions in the Future : Describes an ongoing action that will be interrupted by another action.

Example: "I **will be cooking** dinner when you arrive." "They **will be playing** soccer when it starts to rain."

3. Parallel Actions in the Future : Describes two or more actions happening at the same time in the future.

Example: "While I **will be working**, my brother **will be watching** TV."

"She **will be cooking** while he **will be cleaning** the house."

4. Polite Inquiries About the Future : Used to ask about someone's plans in a polite way.

Example: "Will you **be joining** us for dinner tonight?"

"Will she **be attending** the meeting tomorrow?"

How to Form the Future Continuous Tense: The Future Continuous Tense is formed using:

Subject + will be + present participle (verb + -ing)

Subject	Auxiliary Verb	Verb "to be"	Present Participle	Example
I/You/We/They/He/She/It	will	be	verb + -ing	I will be eating dinner.

Signal Words for Future Continuous Tense

These words often indicate the use of the Future Continuous Tense:

At (a specific time), This time tomorrow/next week, In the future, When, While, During

Examples:

- **At (a specific time) :** "She **will be working** on her project **at 10 AM** tomorrow."
- "This time tomorrow, I **will be traveling** to New York."
- "They **will be celebrating** their anniversary **this time next week.**"
- "In the future, people **will be living** on other planets."
- "I **will be cooking** dinner **when** you arrive."
- "They **will be playing** soccer **when** it starts to rain."
- "I **will be studying** **while** my brother **will be watching** TV."
- "She **will be reading** a book **during** the flight."
- "They **will be discussing** the project **during** the meeting."

Exercise: Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Continuous Tense

- She _____ (read) a book right now.
- They _____ (play) soccer at the moment.
- I _____ (stay) with my friend this week.
- At 8 PM last night, I _____ (watch) TV.
- She _____ (study) when I called her.
- They _____ (play) soccer when it started to rain.
- At 7 PM tomorrow, I _____ (have) dinner.
- She _____ (work) on her project at this time next week.
- They _____ (travel) to Paris this time next month.
- Right now, I _____ (write) an email, but yesterday at this time, I _____ (watch) a movie.
- She _____ (cook) dinner when the phone rang, and tomorrow at this time, she _____ (cook) dinner again.
- They _____ (play) soccer now, but last week at this time, they _____ (study) for exams.

3. Perfect Tense

Definition of the Perfect Tense in English

The **Perfect tense** in English is used to express actions that are completed or have a connection to a point in time (past, present, or future). It uses the auxiliary verb **"have"** (in its various forms: have, has, had, will have) combined with the past participle (**verb-ed** or irregular forms). The Perfect tenses emphasize the **result, effect, or relevance** of an action rather than focusing on the action itself.

What is the Present Perfect Tense?

The **Present Perfect Tense** is used to describe actions or events that **have been completed at some point in the past but are still relevant to the present moment**. It emphasizes the **result, effect, or connection** of the action to the present, rather than focusing on when the action happened. This tense is formed using the auxiliary verb **"have"** (or **"has"** for third-person singular) and the **past participle** of the main verb (e.g., *worked, gone, seen*).

Key Uses of the Present Perfect Tense:

1. **Actions Completed in the Past with Present Relevance:** Describes actions that were finished at an unspecified time in the past but have a connection to the present.

Example: I have finished my homework, and now I am free.

- He has broke his leg, so he can't play football.
- I have lost my keys, so I can't open the door.

2. **Life Experiences (Unspecified Time):** Used to talk about experiences or events that happened at some point in a person's life, without specifying when.

Example: Have you ever eaten sushi? (Asking about their life experience, not when.)

- I have never been to Japan. (Emphasizes the lack of experience up to now.)
- I have learned to play the piano.

3. **Actions That Started in the Past and Continue to the Present:** Describes actions or situations that began in the past and are still ongoing. Often used with time expressions like: **for, since, so far, up to now**.

Example: I have lived here for five years. (I started living here five years ago and still live here now.)

- She has worked at the company since 2020. (She started in 2020 and still works there.)

4. **Recent Actions with Present Results:** Used to describe actions that were completed very recently, and their results are still visible or relevant.

Example: "I have just cleaned the house." (The house is clean now.)

- "He has already left." (He is not here now because he left recently.)

5. **Multiple Actions at Different Times:** Describes actions that have happened several times in the past and may happen again.

Example: "I have watched that movie three times." (It happened multiple times, and I might watch it again.)

- "They have traveled to Europe several times." (They may travel again in the future.)

Time Expressions Commonly Used with the Present Perfect Tense: These words or phrases often accompany the present perfect tense to clarify the connection to the present:

- **ever, never, already, yet, just, so far, up to now, recently, lately, for, since.**

Examples: Ever: "Have you ever been to Paris?"

- **Never:** "I have never seen a whale."
- **Already:** "We have already eaten dinner."
- **Yet:** "Have you finished your project yet?"
- **Just:** "She has just called me."

- **So far:** "So far, I have enjoyed the trip."
- **Up to now:** "Up to now, everything has gone smoothly."
- **Recently:** "I have recently started learning Spanish."
- **Lately:** "Have you been feeling better lately?"
- **For:** "I have worked here for six years."
- **Since:** "He has been a teacher since 2015."

How to Form the Present Perfect Tense: The Present perfect Tense is formed using:

Subject + have/has + past participle

Aspect	Rule	Example
Structure	Subject + have/has + past participle	"I have eaten."
Auxiliary Verb	Use "have" for I, you, we, they .	"They have finished."
	Use "has" for he, she, it .	"She has gone."

The Past Perfect Tense:

It is used to describe an action that was completed before another action or point in the past. It emphasizes the **sequence of events**, showing that one action happened earlier than the other. This tense is formed using the auxiliary verb "**had**" and the **past participle** of the main verb.

Key Uses of the Past Perfect Tense:

1. **Completed Action Before Another Past Action:** Describes an action that was finished before another action took place.

Example: She **had left** before I **arrived**. (She left first, and then I arrived.)

- They **had finished** dinner when the guests **came**.

2. **Conditional Sentences (Third Conditional):** Used to talk about hypothetical situations in the past.

Example: If I **had known**, I **would have helped**.

- She **would have passed** the exam if she **had studied**.

3. **Reporting Past Events:** Used in reported speech to shift the tense back.

Example: Direct speech: "I **saw** the movie."

- Reported speech: She said she **had seen** the movie.

4. **Emphasizing the Sequence of Events:** Used to clarify which action happened first in a series of past events.

Example: By the time the movie **started**, we **had already bought** popcorn.

How to Form the Past Perfect Tense: **Subject + had + past participle**

Time Expressions Commonly Used with the Past Perfect Tense: These words or phrases often accompany the Past Perfect Tense to clarify the sequence of events:

- **before, after, by the time, when, already, just, never, until.**

Examples :

- "She **had left** before I **arrived**."
- "After they **had finished** dinner, they **watched** a movie."
- "By the time the train **arrived**, we **had waited** for an hour."
- "When I **got** home, she **had already cooked** dinner."
- "He **had already left** when I **called**."
- "They **had just finished** the project when the boss **walked** in."

The Future Perfect Tense:

It is used to describe an action that will be completed before a specific point or event in the future. It emphasizes the **completion of an action** by a certain future time. This tense is formed using the auxiliary verb "**will have**" and the **past participle** of the main verb.

Key Uses of the Future Perfect Tense:

1. **Completed Action Before a Future Point:** Describes an action that will be finished before a specific time or event in the future.

Example: By tomorrow, I **will have finished** my project. (The project will be completed before tomorrow.)

- She **will have left** by the time you arrive. (She will leave before your arrival.)
- By next year, I **will have worked** here for ten years.
- By 5 PM, they **will have waited** for two hours.

2. **Assumptions About the Future:** Used to make predictions or assumptions about what will have happened by a certain time.

Example: "You **will have heard** the news by now."

- "They **will have reached** the airport by this time."

How to Form the Future Perfect Tense:

Subject + will have + past participle example: "I **will have completed** the report by 5 PM."

Time Expressions Commonly Used with the Future Perfect Tense:

These words or phrases often accompany the Future Perfect Tense to clarify the future point in time:

- **by, by the time, before, by then, by tomorrow, by next week, by 5 PM.**

Examples : "By next month, I **will have saved** enough money."

- "By the time you arrive, I **will have cooked** dinner."
- "She **will have left** before the meeting starts."
- "I **will have finished** my homework by then."
- "They **will have completed** the project by tomorrow."
- "We **will have cleaned** the house by 5 PM."

Exercise: Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Form of the Verb (Present Perfect, Past Perfect, or Future Perfect)

1. By next week, I _____ (finish) my project.
2. She _____ (not eat) breakfast before she left for work.
3. They _____ (live) in this city for ten years.
4. By the time we arrived, the movie _____ (already start).
5. I _____ (never see) such a beautiful sunset before.
6. He _____ (work) here since 2015.
7. By tomorrow, she _____ (read) the entire book.
8. We _____ (not meet) him before the party last night.
9. _____ you _____ (ever try) sushi?
10. By next year, they _____ (build) the new bridge.