

My Grammar document



Student's name:

Verb tenses

Verbs can have many forms in English, and these almost always help us to work out exactly WHEN the action was taking place.

You can usually make yourself understood (and some languages have only these tenses) using the **Simple tenses**. The Simple tenses are formed from the base form of the verb (without 'to').

The Simple Present:

If used in the 3rd person singular ('he', 'she' or 'it') form the Present by adding -s or -es to the root verb.

The Simple Past is formed by adding -d or -ed (except for Irregular verbs).

The Future is formed by preceding the root verb with 'will'.

For more precise contexts, we can use continuous (progressive) tenses.

Present continuous: TO BE (in the simple present) + base form + *ing*. ex: You ARE talking.

Past Continuous: TO BE (In the simple past) + base form + *ing*. ex: He WAS talking.

Later, we will learn about the perfect tenses too, which are used in other contexts.

Present Perfect: I **have talked** to him for some time.

Past Perfect: He **had taken** medication for this illness.

Verb tenses timeline

It is essential to understand the "time" of a sentence in English in order to use a verb correctly. One mistake that many second language learners make, is to "translate" verb tenses to English. The TENSES do not always transpose from one language to another. The important thing to ask is WHEN the action happens.

The simple present

The simple present



Présent de l'indicatif

Simple Present = Actions that happen EVERYDAY, ALL THE TIME, regularly.

ex: *I brush my teeth everyday. I take the bus to come to school. I like chocolate.*

The present continuous

The present continuous is for actions that are happening RIGHT NOW, or in a NEAR future.

ex: *She is listening to music right now.*
It is raining at the moment.
I am going out with friends tonight.

The simple past

The simple past $\neq$ *Imparfait*.

Simple Past = Actions that happened SOMETIME in the past, and that are OVER.

ex: *I played cards with my friends last weekend.*
I skated for the first time last winter.
The hunter shot a deer yesterday.

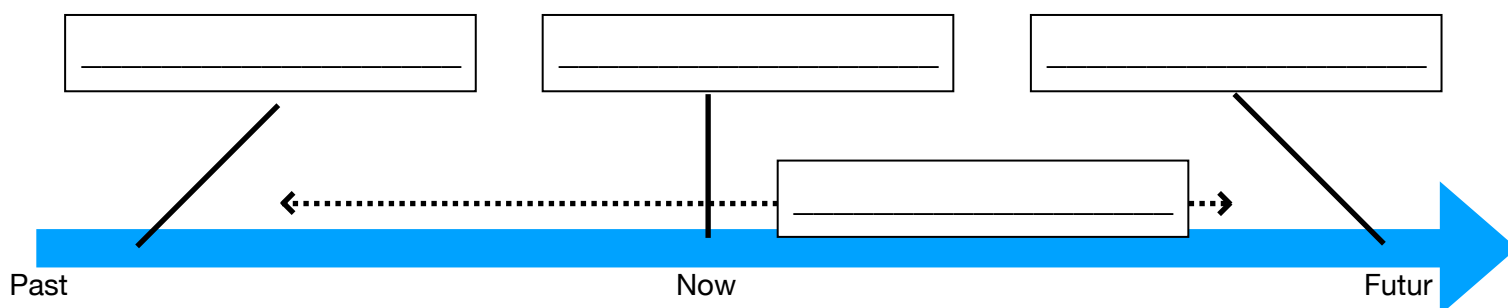
The simple future

The Simple Future = Actions or intentions that will happen later in the future.

ex: *I will do my homework tomorrow.*
We will have a meeting next week.
She will become a doctor.

Exercise 1

Fill in the boxes with the correct verb tense



Exercise 2

Simple present VS Present Continuous

A- Highlight the keywords that tells you the time of the sentence. (if possible)

B- Write the verb correctly.

1. Every Monday, Sally (drive) _____ her kids to football practice.
2. Usually, I (work) _____ as a secretary, but this summer I (study) _____ French at a language school in Paris.
3. Shhhhh! Be quiet! John (sleep) _____.
4. Don't forget to take your umbrella. It (rain) _____.
5. I hate living in Seattle because it (rain, always) _____.
6. I'm sorry I can't hear what you (say) _____ because everybody (talk) _____ so loudly.
7. As we speak, Justin (write) _____ a book about his adventures in Tibet. I hope he can find a good publisher when he is finished.
8. Jim: Do you want to come over for dinner tonight?
Denise: Oh, I'm sorry, I can't. I (go) _____ to a movie tonight with some friends.
9. Normally, the business cards (be) _____ printed by a company in New York. Their prices (be) _____ inexpensive, yet the quality of their work is quite good.
10. This delicious chocolate (be) _____ made by a small chocolatier in Zurich, Switzerland.

Exercise 3

Simple present VS Simple Past

A- Highlight the keywords that tells you the time of the sentence.

B- Write the verb correctly.

1. Sam (arrive) _____ in San Diego a week ago.
2. Currently, I (go) _____ out with Liam. We've been together for 6 months.
3. This tree (be) _____ planted by the settlers who (found) _____ our city over four hundred years ago.
4. Today (be) _____ the second day of my trek around Mount Washington.
5. I (tell) _____ him to stay on the path while he was hiking, but he (wander) _____ off into the forest and was bitten by a snake.
6. Nepal is such nice country. Everything (be) _____ so different, and I (try) _____ to adapt to the new way of life here.

Exercise 4

Simple Future

A- Highlight the keywords that tells you the time of the sentence.

B- Write the verb correctly.

1. If Vera keeps drinking, eventually she (lose) _____ her job.
2. I promise you that I (tell, not) _____ your secret to anybody.
3. Tom (call) _____ when he arrives in Madrid tomorrow.
4. Go see John this afternoon. He (show) _____ you around the school.
15. If it snows this weekend, we (go) _____ skiing near Lake Tahoe.

Exercise 5

Simple present / Present Continuous / Simple Past / Simple Future

A- Highlight the keywords that tells you the time of the sentence.

B- Write the verb correctly.

1. Where is Gary? He (study) _____ for his German test on Wednesday.
2. Shauna (study) _____ Japanese for five years.
3. He (play) _____ the violin when he was a kid.
4. You (help) _____ him later.
5. I (sit) _____ right now.
6. I (buy) _____ a new car next year.
7. She (wash) _____ her car yesterday.
8. I (brush) _____ my teeth everyday.
9. She (jump) _____ every time she (see) _____ a cat.
10. I promise I (take) _____ care of everything while you are in Ireland.
11. Do you think we (win) _____ this election?
12. Music (make) _____ me so calm.

Forming questions

To understand how to form questions, you must recall BASIC SENTENCE STRUCTURE:

Subject + (aux) Verb + Object

I like bananas.

We are reading books.

He played hockey in the NHL.

She will call him tonight.

There are 2 types of questions:

1. **Yes / no Questions:** The answer to which is YES or NO: *Do you like bananas?*
2. **Information Questions:** For more precise information, adding a Question Word:
Why do you like bananas?

Always start with the Yes / No question form even if you are forming an Information Question.

Affirmative sentence: **Subject + (aux) Verb + Object**

Yes / no question: **AUX + Subject + Verb + Object**

Info Question: **Q-word + AUX + Subject + Verb + Object**

Example 1

		Subject	(aux)	Verb	Object
Affirmative sentence		You	are	talking	too loudly.
	Qword	Aux	Subject	Verb	Object
YES / NO question		Are	you	talking	too loudly ?
INFO Question	Why	are	you	talking	too loudly ?

Example 2

		Subject	(aux)	Verb	Object
Affirmative sentence		He		plays	hockey
	Qword	Aux	Subject	Verb	Object
YES / NO question		DOES	he	play	hockey ?
INFO Question	Where	DOES	he	play	hockey ?

HINT: To change affirmative sentences into Yes / No question, observe the affirmative sentence carefully:

1. Is there the verb TO BE?

ex: They **are** the best.



Put the verb **BEFORE** the subject.



Are they the best?

2. Is there an auxiliary?

ex: She **could** try harder



Put the auxiliary **BEFORE** the subject



Could she try harder?

3. For all other situations

ex: You play volleyball

He drinks coffee

She worked hard



add **Do, Does** (present) or **Did** (past)
before the subject.



Do you play volleyball?



Does he drink coffee?



Did she work hard?

Exercise 1

Transform these affirmative sentences into Yes / no questions

1. You listen to music every night.

2. He talks too much on the phone.

3. She matched her shoes with her outfit this morning.

4. I ran to the store to get the new iPhone.

5. My mother is the youngest of her siblings.

6. They were walking to school on that day.

7. The doctor decided on performing the surgery.

8. The players were intimidated by the other team.

9. Usain Bolt could run a marathon.

10. Gina is playing the drums.

11. It will be a long winter.

12. Beaches are sandy.

Question Words

An **interrogative word** or **question word** is a **function word** used to ask a **question**.

Here is a list of the most commonly used question words.

Complete it by writing the function of each question word.

Q Word	Function	Q Word	Function
Who		Whose	
What		Which	
When		How	
Where		How long	
Why		How often	
How much		How big	
How many		How tall	

Complete the questions by adding the appropriate **Question word**.

Questions	Answer
1. _____ are you going now?	To the library
2. _____ English book is this?	It's Pierre's.
3. _____ time is it now?	It's eight-fifteen.
4. _____ money do you have?	Seventy-five cents.
5. _____ one did Bill take?	The small one.
6. _____ as that tall boy?	My friend, Frank.
7. _____ did you talk to?	The chairman.
8. _____ flour did you buy?	Two kilos.
9. _____ did you get to school?	By car.
10. _____ is your brother?	Twenty years old.
11. _____ color is her hair?	Light brown.
12. _____ will she get here?	Probably Monday.
13. _____ do they come here?	Twice a year.
14. _____ does "peculiar" mean?	It means "strange."
15. _____ is there a bus stop?	At the next comer.
16. _____ put a chair here?	Roger, I think.
17. _____ are you going to buy?	A pair of shoes.
18. _____ is Fred talking to now?	Mr. Kennedy.
19. _____ were you in the army?	Three years.
20. _____ car is in the driveway?	My father's.
21. _____ is the baby crying?	Because he is hungry.
22. _____ will I see you again?	Next week.
23. _____ is he?	He's my father.
24. _____ does he feel ?	He's much better today.
25. _____ is the puppy in the window?	\$350

Information questions

HOW ? To form an Information question, you must FIRST create the YES/NO question.
Remember: "1- Verb to be ?; 2- Auxiliary?; — 3- *If not*, **Do, Does, Did**.

THEN add a **Question word** (*Who, What, When, Where, Why, How, How much, ...*)

NOTE: If the answer you are seeking is the SUBJECT of the affirmative, just replace it by WHO or WHAT.

ex: **Jim** is the best player on the team. —> **Who** is the best player on the team?

Exercise

Transform the affirmative sentences into a question that would seek the answer underlined.

Ex: Affirmative: I ran to the store to get the new **iPhone**.

Yes/no: Did I run to the store?

Info Quest: Why did I run to the store? (To get the new iPhone)

1. Affirmative: Gina is playing the **drums**.

Yes / no: _____

Info Quest: _____

2. Affirmative: He plays music **every night**.

Yes / no: _____

Info Quest: _____

3. Affirmative: The students are staying inside **because of the rain**.

Yes / no: _____

Info Quest: _____

4. Affirmative: **The airplane** was delayed because of the storm.

Yes / no: _____

Info Quest: _____

5. Affirmative: Peter wants to save the **cheerleader**.

Yes / no: _____

Info Quest: _____

6. Affirmative: **Peter** wants to save the cheerleader.

Yes / no: _____

Info Quest: _____

Articles

Articles are words that define a noun as **specific** or **unspecific**.

A, AN, THE

For example, in a **specific** context: After *the* long exam, *the* tasty meal was well deserved.

By using the article ***the***, we've shown that it was one specific EXAM that was long, and one specific MEAL that was tasty.

In an **unspecific**, or **general** context: After *a* long exam, *a* tasty meal is well deserved.

By using the article ***a***, we've shown that it was one unspecific EXAM that was long, and one unspecific MEAL that was tasty.

In the PLURAL

In a **specific** context: After the long exams, the tasty meals prepared by the chef are well deserved.

By using the article ***the***, we've shown that it was one specific group of EXAMS that was long, and one specific group of MEALS (prepared by the chef) that were tasty.

In an **unspecific**, or **general** context: After long exams, tasty meals are well deserved.

In case of unspecified or general contexts in the plural, NO article is written.

Exercise 1

Fill in the chart with correctly.

Articles		
	Singular	Plural
General Context		
Specific Context		

Exercise 2

Write the correct Article. Write X when no article is needed.
Circle the right context.

ex: *Children like ___X___ chocolate.*

ex: General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

1. Guillaume likes _____ bananas.

1. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

2. My mother paid \$50 for _____ new purse.

2. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

3. At night, I have _____ nightmares.

3. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

4. My friend listens to _____ national anthem.

4. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

5. I bought _____ car that was on sale.

5. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

6. I met _____ nice girl yesterday.

6. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

7. _____ apple a day keeps the doctor away!

7. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

8. There was _____ airplane crash last summer.

8. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

9. Wasting your time is _____ bad thing.

9. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

10. She lives in _____ South Korea.

10. General or Specific. — Plural or Singular

Exercise 3

Complete the paragraph below with the correct articles.
Write X when no article is needed.

Whether you're at _____ party or hanging out in _____ small group, "Just saying no" to _____ drugs or _____ alcohol is a lot easier said than done. It's especially hard if _____ people you're with are your friends — or you're looking to make some new ones. Worse still is if _____ person you like is _____ one opening _____ bottle or lighting up _____ joint and handing it directly to you. "Saying no isn't easy in these situations — it can be really tricky," says Psychotherapist Emily Roberts. "But remember, you're _____ one that has to live with _____ consequences. You don't want your ride home to be _____ ambulance.