

# TENSES INFOGRAPHICS



## ALWAYS TRUE

Two and two make four.

## PERMANENT SITUATIONS

I live in London.

## SHORT ACTIONS NOW

He takes the ball and scores a goal!

PRESENT

## HABITS

She plays tennis every Tuesday.

Use with: twice a month, on Fridays, often, sometimes.

PRESENT SIMPLE

FUTURE

## FUTURE TIMETABLES

Our train leaves at 11am.

Use with: this evening, at 10 o'clock, tomorrow.

## FUTURE IN TIME CLAUSES

I won't go out until it stops raining.

Use with: until, when, as soon as, after, before.

## UNFINISHED ACTIONS NOW

I'm working at the moment.

Use with: now, at the moment.

## TEMPORARY SITUATIONS

I'm living in London.

Use with: at the moment, for a few weeks, for a couple of months.

## TEMPORARY HABITS

He's eating a lot these days.

Use with: at the moment, these days.

## ANNOYING HABITS

You're forever losing your keys!

Use with: always, forever, constantly.

## DEFINITE FUTURE PLANS

I'm meeting my father tomorrow.

Use with: tomorrow, later, at 7pm tonight, on Tuesday.

PRESENT

PRESENT  
CONTINUOUS

FUTURE

**UNFINISHED**

## **HOW LONG**

I've known Karen since 1994.  
She's lived in London for three years.

**Use with:** since 2010, since July,  
for ten years, for three days.

## **UNFINISHED TIME WORD**

I haven't seen her this month.

**Use with:** this week, today, this  
month, this year.

## **PRESENT RESULT**

I've lost my keys (so I can't get into my  
house).

## **NEWS / RECENT EVENTS**

The Queen has given a speech.

**Use with:** just / yet / already / recently.

# **PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE**

**FINISHED**

## **LIFE EXPERIENCE**

I've been to Tokyo.

**Use with:** ever, never.

# PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FINISHED

## PRESENT RESULT

I've been working (that's why I'm tired).

UNFINISHED

## HOW LONG

I've been living in London for two years.  
She's been working here since 2004.

**Use with:** since 2010, since July, for ten years, for three days.

## TEMPORARY SITUATIONS

I've been going to the gym a lot recently.

**Use with:** recently.

## FINISHED TIME WORD

I went to the cinema yesterday.

**Use with:** yesterday, last night, in 2003, 6 months ago.

## FINISHED TIME PERIOD

Leonardo painted the Mona Lisa.

PAST

## DETAILS OF NEWS

I've hurt my leg. I fell off a ladder.

**Use with:** the present perfect.

PAST SIMPLE

## ACTIONS IN STORIES

He sat down and ordered a coffee.

**Use with:** the past continuous.

PRESENT /  
FUTURE

## UNREAL / IMAGINARY THINGS

If I won the lottery, I would buy a house.

**Use with:** wish, it's time, second conditional.

## OVERLAPPING ACTION

I was walking to the station when I met John.

**Use with:** when + past simple, two o'clock, 7pm.

## STORY BACKGROUND

The birds were singing and the sun was shining. Amy sat down.

**Use with:** the past simple.

## SOME PAST HABITS

She was constantly singing.

**Use with:** always, forever, constantly, at that time, in those days.

# PAST CONTINUOUS

## EMPHASIS OF LENGTH OF ACTION

I was working in the garden all day.

**Use with:** all day, all evening, for hours.

## **ACTION FINISHED BEFORE ANOTHER PAST ACTION**

When we arrived, the film had started.

**Use with: when + past simple, June, last Tuesday.**

## **HOW LONG TO A POINT IN THE PAST**

When he graduated, he had been in London for six years.

**Use with: when + past simple, for + time.**

# **PAST PERFECT**

## **UNREAL THINGS IN THE PAST**

I wish I hadn't gone to bed so late!

**Use with: third conditionals, wish.**



# PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

## HOW LONG TO A POINT IN THE PAST

She had been working at that company for a year when she met James.

**Use with:** when + past simple, for + time.

## RESULT AT A TIME IN THE PAST

The pavement was wet. It had been raining.

**Use with:** the past simple.

## FUTURE PREDICTION

The sun will rise at 7 am.  
I think the Conservatives will win the next election.

## PROMISES / REQUESTS / REFUSALS / OFFERS

I'll help you with your homework.

## FUTURE CONDITIONALS

If it doesn't rain, we'll go to the park.

**Use with: the first conditional.**

## PLANS AND INTENTIONS

A: We've run out of milk.  
B: I know. I'm going to buy some.

## FUTURE PREDICTION

The sky is getting darker and darker. It's going to rain.

WILL

FUTURE SIMPLE

BE GOING  
TO

# FUTURE CONTINUOUS

## OVERLAPPING ACTION

I'll be waiting when you arrive.

**Use with:** when + present simple, at 8pm.

## FUTURE AS A MATTER OF COURSE

The government will be making a statement later.

**Use with:** later, tonight, next week on the 2nd of September.

## HOW LONG TO A POINT IN THE FUTURE

When we get married, I'll have known Robert for four years.

**Use with:** when + present simple, by the time + present simple, for + time.

## FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

## ACTION FINISHED BEFORE A POINT IN THE FUTURE

By ten o'clock, I will have finished my homework.

**Use with:** by three o'clock, by Friday, when + present simple, by the time + present simple.

## HOW LONG TO A POINT IN THE FUTURE

In April, she will have been teaching for twelve years.

**Use with: when + present simple, by the time + present simple, for + time.**

## FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

## ACTION FINISHED BEFORE A POINT IN THE FUTURE

When I see you, I'll have been studying, so I'll be tired.

**Use with: when + present simple, by the time + present simple.**