

## English Tense Overview

Tense	Example	Use
<b>Present simple</b>	I often go to the beach at the weekend.	Something that happens regularly
	He lives in Valbonne.	Something that is always true, or permanent
<b>Present Continuous</b>	I'm reading a really good book.	An action happening around now
	The coffee machine's not working.	A temporary situation
	I'm meeting Pat this evening.	An arrangement in the future
<b>Present Perfect</b>	I've been on TV.	An experience that happened some time in your life (but you don't specify when).
	I've lived here for 3 years.	An action or situation that started in the past and continues until now.
	I've finished my book.	Something that happened very recently.
	It's been really windy lately.	A recent situation.
<b>Present Perfect Continuous</b>	I've been living here for 3 years.	An action or situation that started in the past and continues until now, where the emphasis is on the length of the action.
	I've been reading all day.	An action or situation that started in the past and continues until now, where the emphasis is on the length of the action.
<b>Past Simple</b>	We drank too much champagne last night.	An action or situation that happened in the past. The time period in the past is finished.



<b>Past Continuous</b>	We were revising English tenses when all the lights went out.	A longer action that happened in the past, usually it was happening at the time another action happened. The past continuous is the “background action” and the past simple is used for the main action.
<b>Past perfect</b>	We had finished looking at the past perfect when the lights went out.	The past of the past, An action that happened before another action in the past. You can usually use the past simple instead.
<b>Past perfect continuous</b>	We had been working hard all day so we decided to go to the pub.	A long action that happened before another action in the past. You can usually use the past simple instead.
<b>Future with 'will'</b>	I'm hungry. I'll get a snack from the machine.	Something I just decided to do
	All the fish will be gone in 10 years time.	A prediction
<b>Future with 'going to'</b>	I'm going to visit my friends in Dublin in October.	A plan or intention
	It's going to rain.	A prediction where I have some evidence (for example, the sky is very dark and cloudy.)
<b>Future Continuous</b>	In 2 years time, you'll be speaking totally fluent English.	An action happening around a certain time in the future.
<b>Future Perfect</b>	By the time you read this sentence, your brain will have melted.	The past of the future. Something that will happen between now and a point in the future.

