

# TENSE CHART

All 12 English Tenses

|         | Tense                      | Formula                       | Sample sentence                      |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Present | Simple present             | Sub + V1 (+s/es)              | She writes a letter.                 |
|         | Present continuous         | Sub + am/is/are + V1-ing      | She is writing a letter.             |
|         | Present perfect            | Sub + has/have + V3           | She has written a letter.            |
|         | Present perfect continuous | Sub + has/have been + V1-ing  | She has been writing a letter.       |
| Past    | Simple past                | Sub + V2                      | She wrote a letter.                  |
|         | Past continuous            | Sub + was/were + V1-ing       | She was writing a letter.            |
|         | Past perfect               | Sub + had + V3                | She had written a letter.            |
|         | Past perfect continuous    | Sub + had been + V1-ing       | She had been writing a letter.       |
| Future  | Simple future              | Sub + will + V1               | She will write a letter.             |
|         | Future continuous          | Sub + will be + V1-ing        | She will be writing a letter.        |
|         | Future perfect             | Sub + will have + V3          | She will have written a letter.      |
|         | Future perfect continuous  | Sub + will have been + V1-ing | She will have been writing a letter. |

# Tenses Table

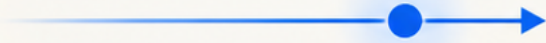


| Time    | Simple     | Continuous      | Perfect           | Perfect continuous     |
|---------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Present | writes     | is writing      | has written       | has been writing       |
| Past    | wrote      | was writing     | had written       | had been writing       |
| Future  | will write | will be writing | will have written | will have been writing |

Verb shown: *write*

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# Present Tense Chart



| Tense                             | Formula                      | Sample sentence                            |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Simple present</b>             | Sub + V1 (+s/es)             | She writes a letter every day.             |
| <b>Present continuous</b>         | Sub + am/is/are + V1-ing     | She is writing a letter now.               |
| <b>Present perfect</b>            | Sub + has/have + V3          | She has written a letter.                  |
| <b>Present perfect continuous</b> | Sub + has/have been + V1-ing | She has been writing a letter for an hour. |



**NOW**

Present tenses relate an action to now.

# Past Tense Chart



| Tense                          | Formula                 | Sample sentence                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Simple past</b>             | Sub + V2                | She wrote a letter yesterday.               |
| <b>Past continuous</b>         | Sub + was/were + V1-ing | She was writing a letter at 7 p.m.          |
| <b>Past perfect</b>            | Sub + had + V3          | She had written a letter before he arrived. |
| <b>Past perfect continuous</b> | Sub + had been + V1-ing | She had been writing a letter for an hour.  |



Past tenses place an action before now.

# Future Tense Chart

| Tense                     | Formula                       | Sample sentence                                          |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Simple future             | Sub + will + V1               | She will write a letter tomorrow.                        |
| Future continuous         | Sub + will be + V1-ing        | She will be writing a letter at noon.                    |
| Future perfect            | Sub + will have + V3          | She will have written a letter by Friday.                |
| Future perfect continuous | Sub + will have been + V1-ing | She will have been writing a letter for an hour by noon. |



Future tenses place an action after now.

# Signal Words for Each Tense



## Present

|                                   |                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Simple present</b>             | every day, always, usually, often, never, on Sundays        |
| <b>Present continuous</b>         | now, right now, at the moment, currently, tonight, tomorrow |
| <b>Present perfect</b>            | already, just, yet, ever, never, so far, recently           |
| <b>Present perfect continuous</b> | since, for, all day, all week, lately, how long             |

## Past

|                                |                                           |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Simple past</b>             | yesterday, last week, ago, in 2019, then  |
| <b>Past continuous</b>         | while, when, as, at 7 p.m., all evening   |
| <b>Past perfect</b>            | before, after, by the time, already, when |
| <b>Past perfect continuous</b> | for, since, before, how long, all day     |

## Future

|                                  |                                                  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Simple future</b>             | tomorrow, next week, soon, later, in the future  |
| <b>Future continuous</b>         | at 6 p.m., this time tomorrow, next month, later |
| <b>Future perfect</b>            | by tomorrow, by then, by next year, before       |
| <b>Future perfect continuous</b> | by then, for, by next month, all day             |

# 12 Tenses Timeline Chart



|                    | Past                               | Present                               | Future                               |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Simple             | <b>Simple past</b><br>             | <b>Simple present</b><br>             | <b>Simple future</b><br>             |
| Continuous         | <b>Past continuous</b><br>         | <b>Present continuous</b><br>         | <b>Future continuous</b><br>         |
| Perfect            | <b>Past perfect</b><br>            | <b>Present perfect</b><br>            | <b>Future perfect</b><br>            |
| Perfect continuous | <b>Past perfect continuous</b><br> | <b>Present perfect continuous</b><br> | <b>Future perfect continuous</b><br> |



Action marker



Action in progress



Reference point