

Simple Present (do/does + base)

Facts

Repeated actions (routines, habits)

Future schedule for a business

The movie begins at 6:30pm.

every _____

on Mondays

Frequency adverbs

Non-action verbs (mental states, emotions, possession)

Simple Past (did + base)

Completed past actions (started in the past and ended in the past)

We often say when, specific time

yesterday, ago, last _____, when _____

Simple Future

Will Prediction (no evidence)

Decision made at the moment of speaking

Offer to help, ask for help, promise

Possible plans (no decision yet)

Am/is/are + going to + base

Prediction (no evidence AND we can see evidence)

Decision made in the past → plan

Passive (was/were + 3rd)

Emphasize the object. The subject is not important, unknown, or obvious

Passive sentences without the "by" phrase are more common. (The library is closed today.)

Progressives (BE + ing). A temporary action in progress at a specific time.

Present Progressive (am/is/are + ing)

An action in progress now.

Future plans for a person.

I'm visiting my aunt this weekend.

In progress for a length of time (but temporary, it won't last forever)

I'm taking chemistry this semester.

now, right now, at the moment

these days

this _____

Past Progressive (was/were + ing)

An action that was in progress at a specific time in the past.

I was watching TV at 8:00 last night.

Often interrupted by a simple past action.

I was watching TV when the phone rang.

Future Progressive (Will + be + ing)

An action will be in progress at a specific time in the future.

We use in questions to politely ask about someone's plans.

Will you be working late tonight?

Perfect – there is a relationship between two tenses

Present Perfect (have/has + 3rd)

A completed past action that is important now or influences now

(relationship between the past and the present)

We don't say when (no specific time, general)

lately, recently, already, yet, so far, ever, never

Present Perfect with SINCE or FOR

Changes the meaning!

The past action is not completed. The past action continues into the present.

Suzan has studied English for two and a half years.

Anna has lived in Kansas City for almost six years.

Anna has lived in Kansas City since 2015.

Use FOR with a period of time, duration of time, length of time.

for 5 seconds

for 30 minutes

for 2 hours

for 8 days

for a week

for 3 months

for 11 years



Use SINCE with a specific point in time, when the action started

since 8:00 this morning

since Monday, since yesterday

since October, since last month

since Halloween, since October 31st

since 2016

since I moved here (past tense verb that happened at a specific time)



Present Perfect vs Present Perfect Progressive

Present perfect with since/for

Both: not completed

Both: something began in the past and is still in progress now

Has a more temporary feel

Present Perfect Progressive with since/for

Present perfect

An action that happened at

an indefinite time in the past

We don't say when

This past action is important now

Present Perfect Progressive

An action that has just recently stopped

and you can still see the evidence

It's been raining. (The sidewalk is wet.)

Have you been crying? (Your face is red.)