



ENGLISH GRAMMAR



VERBS AND TENSES

The Present Perfect Simple

We use the **Present Perfect Simple** to express:

- actions started in the past that continue to the present: *Hellen **has practised** sports since 2020.*
- life experiences which occurred at an unknown time in the past: *We **have watched** the Oscars.*
- actions from the past with results visible in the present: *Look! Thomas **has decorated** his house!*

Time phrases: *so far, lately, just, already, yet, since, for, ever, never, etc.*

Time adverbs or phrases are generally placed **after** the auxiliary **have / has**, except for **yet, before, so far**, which are placed **at the end** of the sentence.

E.g. *Jenny **has lived** in Spain **for** three years.* *Ingrid **hasn't visited** foreign countries **yet**.*
*Henry **has just finished** the book.* *The jury **has already reached** a verdict.*

We use **ever** to refer to any time in one's life and **never** to refer to no time in one's life.

E.g. A: ***Have** you **ever played** a musical instrument?*
 B: Yes, I **have**. I **have played** the piano. No, I haven't. I **have never played** one.

Affirmative	Subject + HAVE / HAS + Past Participle (third form of the verb)	I/You/We/They've / have worked all day. He/She/It's / has walked for miles.
Negative	Subject + HAVE / HAS + NOT + Past Participle (third form of the verb)	I/You/We/They haven't / have not brought it. He/She/It hasn't / has not found the ball.
Interrogative	HAVE / HAS + subject + Past Participle (third form of the verb)	Have I/you/we/they spoken to you? Has he/she/it gone home?

The Present Perfect Continuous

We use the **Present Perfect Continuous**:

- to emphasise duration for actions started in the past which continue up to the present:
E.g. *She **has been jogging** in the park **for an hour**.*
- for actions started in the past which continue or not up to the present, but with visible results in the present:
E.g. *Eric **has been playing** video games **since morning**. It's noon now and he is still playing.*

Time phrases: *since, for, how long.*

E.g. *Mrs. Jones **has been teaching** fractions **since** October.*
*George **has been solving** exercises **for** two hours and he still has some to finish.*

Affirmative	Subject + HAVE / HAS + BEEN + verb + -ing	I/You/We/They've / have been talking He/She/It's / has been learning
Negative	Subject + HAVE / HAS + NOT + BEEN + verb + -ing	I/You/We/They haven't / have not been crying He/She/It hasn't / has not been running
Interrogative	HAVE / HAS + subject + BEEN + verb + -ing	Have I/you/we/they been cooking ? Has he/she/it been swimming ?

The Present Perfect Continuous versus The Present Continuous

Both tenses refer to actions happening at the present moment, but:

PRESENT CONTINUOUS expresses an action in progress now.	PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS expresses an action started in the past, still going on.
The girls are singing a song right now .	They have been singing songs since they met.
The baker is baking bagels now .	The baker has been baking bagels for hours.

The Present Perfect Simple versus The Present Perfect Continuous

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

emphasises the effect of a completed action.

We **have eaten** the apple pie. It was delicious.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

emphasises the duration of an action.

We **have been playing** the game **for** one hour.

The Present Perfect Simple versus The Past Simple

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

* for actions that happened at an unstated time in the past, with effects in the present:

E.g. We **have visited** Paris. Here are some brochures.

* for actions that started in the past and continue in the present:

E.g. My friend **has studied** History **since** he could read. (He is still studying History at university.)

PAST SIMPLE

* for actions that happened at a stated time in the past:

E.g. We **visited** Paris **last year**.

* for actions that started and ended in the past:

E.g. My friend **studied** History **for several years**, then he **decided** to take up Geography.

The Past Continuous

We use the **Past Continuous** to speak about:

* actions in progress at a certain moment in the past:

You **were waiting** for the bus at 6.30 p.m.

* two simultaneous actions in the past:

I **was cycling** while you **were swimming**.

* a past action in progress when another one interrupted it:

He **was driving** home when I called.

Time words / phrases: *as, while, at 5 p.m. yesterday, all day*, etc.

E.g. While Angie **was looking** after the dog, her sister **was feeding** the puppies.

Affirmative

Subject + WAS / WERE + verb + -ing

I/He/She/It **was playing** with the kitten.

You/We/They **were reading** the newspaper.

Negative

Subject + WAS / WERE + NOT + verb + -ing

I/He/She/It **wasn't / was not** chasing the dog.

You/We/They **weren't / were not** hoovering the rug.

Interrogative

WAS / WERE + subject + verb + -ing

Was I/he/she/it **watching** TV?

Were you/we/they **training** for the marathon?

The Future Simple

We use the **Future Simple** to make predictions about the future, based on our opinion.

E.g. Mathew **will become** a doctor, I **think**.

We **believe** the flea market **will sell** fresh produce in our neighbourhood.

Our team **probably won't play** this week due to the weather. (probably → strength of our opinion)

Mark **definitely won't drive** on slippery roads. (definitely → strength of our opinion)

Affirmative

Subject + WILL ('LL) + verb (base form)

*same verb form for all subjects

My mother **will sing** this song again.

I'll **join** her and **play** the piano.

Negative

Subject + WILL NOT / WON'T + verb (base form)

*same verb form for all subjects

Sarah **will not bake** the cherry cake.

We **won't cut** the vegetables.

Interrogative

WILL + subject + verb (base form)

*same verb form for all subjects

Will you **light** the fire in the fireplace?

Yes, I **will**. / No, I **won't**.

Be Going To

We use **Be Going To** to express:

* intentions and plans for the future:

The teacher **is going to test** us next week.

I **am going to start** a new job next month.

John **is going to learn** how to play the guitar.

* predictions about the future, based on present evidence:

You **are going to slip** on this icy road.

The team is playing terribly; they're **going to lose** the match.

Sandra looks very pale — she's **going to faint**.