

englisch-hilfen.de – LEARNING ENGLISH ONLINE

Tense	Signal words	Use	Form	Examples affirmative	Examples negative	Examples interrogative
Simple Present	<p>every day</p> <p>sometimes</p> <p>always</p> <p>often</p> <p>usually</p> <p>seldom</p> <p>never</p> <p>first ... then</p>	<p>something happens repeatedly</p> <p>how often something happens</p> <p>one action follows another</p> <p>things in general</p> <p>with the following verbs (to love, to hate, to think, etc.)</p> <p>future meaning: timetables, programmes</p>	<p>Infinitive</p> <p>he/she/it + -s</p>	<p>I work.</p> <p>He works.</p> <p>I go.</p> <p>He goes.</p>	<p>I don't work.</p> <p>He doesn't work.</p> <p>I don't go.</p> <p>He doesn't go.</p>	<p>Do I work?</p> <p>Does he work?</p> <p>Do I go?</p> <p>Does he go?</p>
Present Progressive	<p>now</p> <p>at the moment</p> <p>Look!</p> <p>Listen!</p>	<p>something is happening at the same time of speaking or around it</p> <p>future meaning: when you have already decided and arranged to do it (a fixed plan, date)</p>	<p>to be (am/are/is) + Infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I'm working.</p> <p>He's working.</p> <p>I'm going.</p> <p>He's going.</p>	<p>I'm not working.</p> <p>He isn't working.</p> <p>I'm not going.</p> <p>He isn't going.</p>	<p>Am I working?</p> <p>Is he working?</p> <p>Am I going?</p> <p>Is he going?</p>
Simple Past	<p>last ...</p> <p>... ago</p> <p>in 1990</p> <p>yesterday</p>	<p>action took place in the past, mostly connected with an expression of time (no connection to the present)</p>	<p>regular: Infinitive + -ed</p> <p>irregular: 2. Spalte</p>	<p>I worked.</p> <p>He worked.</p> <p>I went.</p> <p>He went.</p>	<p>I didn't work.</p> <p>He didn't work.</p> <p>I didn't go.</p> <p>He didn't go.</p>	<p>Did I work?</p> <p>Did he work?</p> <p>Did I go?</p> <p>Did he go?</p>

Past Progressive	while	<p>an action happened in the middle of another action</p> <p>someone was doing sth. at a certain time (in the past) - you don't know whether it was finished or not</p>	was/were + Infinitive + -ing	<p>I was working.</p> <p>He was working.</p> <p>I was going.</p> <p>He was going.</p>	<p>I wasn't working.</p> <p>He wasn't working.</p> <p>I wasn't going.</p> <p>He wasn't going.</p>	<p>Was I working?</p> <p>Was he working?</p> <p>Was I going?</p> <p>Was he going?</p>
Simple Present Perfect	<p>just</p> <p>yet</p> <p>never</p> <p>ever</p> <p>already</p> <p>so far,</p> <p>up to now,</p> <p>since</p> <p>for</p> <p>recently</p>	<p>you say that sth. has happened or is finished in the past and it has a connection to the present</p> <p>action started in the past and continues up to the present</p>	<p>have/has + past participle*</p> <p><i>*(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</i></p>	<p>I have worked.</p> <p>He has worked.</p> <p>I have gone.</p> <p>He has gone.</p>	<p>I haven't worked.</p> <p>He hasn't worked.</p> <p>I haven't gone.</p> <p>He hasn't gone.</p>	<p>Have I worked?</p> <p>Has he worked?</p> <p>Have I gone?</p> <p>Has he gone?</p>
Present Perfect Progressive	<p>all day</p> <p>the whole day</p> <p>how long</p> <p>since</p> <p>for</p>	<p>action began in the past and has just stopped</p> <p>how long the action has been happening</p> <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	have/has + been + Infinitive + -ing	<p>I have been working.</p> <p>He has been working.</p> <p>I have been going.</p> <p>He has been going.</p>	<p>I haven't been working.</p> <p>He hasn't been working.</p> <p>I haven't been going.</p> <p>He hasn't been going.</p>	<p>Have I been working?</p> <p>Has he been working?</p> <p>Have I been going?</p> <p>Has he been going?</p>

Simple Past Perfect	<p>already</p> <p>just</p> <p>never</p>	<p>mostly when two actions in a story are related to each other: the action which had already happened is put into past perfect, the other action into simple past</p> <p>the past of the Present Perfect</p>	<p>had + past participle*</p> <p>*(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I had worked.</p> <p>He had worked.</p> <p>I had gone.</p> <p>He had gone.</p>	<p>I hadn't worked.</p> <p>He hadn't worked.</p> <p>I hadn't gone.</p> <p>He hadn't gone.</p>	<p>Had I worked?</p> <p>Had he worked?</p> <p>Had I gone?</p> <p>Had he gone?</p>
Past Perfect Progressive	<p>how long</p> <p>since</p> <p>for</p>	<p>how long something had been happening before something else happened</p>	<p>had + been + Infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I had been working.</p> <p>He had been working.</p> <p>I had been going.</p> <p>He had been going.</p>	<p>I hadn't been working.</p> <p>He hadn't been working.</p> <p>I hadn't been going.</p> <p>He hadn't been going.</p>	<p>Had I been working?</p> <p>Had he been working?</p> <p>Had I been going?</p> <p>Had he been going?</p>
will - future		<p>predictions about the future (you think that sth will happen)</p> <p>you decide to do sth. spontaneously at the time of speaking, you haven't made a main clause in type I of the if clauses</p>	<p>will + Infinitive</p>	<p>I 'll work.</p> <p>He 'll work.</p> <p>I 'll go.</p> <p>He 'll go.</p>	<p>I won't work.</p> <p>He won't work.</p> <p>I won't go.</p> <p>He won't go.</p>	<p>Will I work?</p> <p>Will he work?</p> <p>Will I go?</p> <p>Will he go?</p>
going to - future		<p>when you have already decided to do sth. in the future</p> <p>what you think what will happen</p>	<p>be (am/are/is) + going to + Infinitive</p>	<p>I 'm going to work.</p> <p>He 's going to work.</p> <p>I 'm going to go.</p> <p>He 's going to go.</p>	<p>I 'm not going to work.</p> <p>He 's not going to work.</p> <p>I 'm not going to go.</p> <p>He 's not going to go.</p>	<p>Am I going to work?</p> <p>Is he going to work?</p> <p>Am I going to go?</p> <p>Is he going to go?</p>

Future Progressive		<p>An action will be in progress at a certain time in the future. This action has begun before the certain time.</p> <p>Something happens because it normally happens.</p>	<p>will + be + Infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I ll be working.</p> <p>He ll be working.</p> <p>I ll be going.</p> <p>He ll be going.</p>	<p>I won't be working.</p> <p>He won't be working.</p> <p>I won't be going.</p> <p>He won't be going.</p>	<p>Will I be working?</p> <p>Will he be working?</p> <p>Will I be going?</p> <p>Will he be going?</p>
Future Perfect Simple		<p>sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future</p>	<p>will + have + past participle*</p> <p><i>*(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</i></p>	<p>I ll have worked.</p> <p>He ll have worked.</p> <p>I ll have gone.</p> <p>He ll have gone.</p>	<p>I won't have worked.</p> <p>He won't have worked.</p> <p>I won't have gone.</p> <p>He won't have gone.</p>	<p>Will I have worked?</p> <p>Will he have worked?</p> <p>Will I have gone?</p> <p>Will he have gone?</p>
Future Perfect Progressive		<p>sth. will already have happened before a certain time in the future</p> <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	<p>will + have + been + Infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I ll have been working.</p> <p>He ll have been working.</p> <p>I ll have been going.</p> <p>He ll have been going.</p>	<p>I won't have been working.</p> <p>He won't have been working.</p> <p>I won't have been going.</p> <p>He won't have been going.</p>	<p>Will I have been working?</p> <p>Will he have been working?</p> <p>Will I have been working?</p> <p>Will he have been working?</p>
Conditional Simple		<p>sth. that might happen</p> <p>main clause in type II of the if clauses</p>	<p>would + Infinitive</p>	<p>I would work.</p> <p>He would work.</p> <p>I would go.</p> <p>He would go.</p>	<p>I wouldn't work.</p> <p>He wouldn't work.</p> <p>I wouldn't go.</p> <p>He wouldn't go.</p>	<p>Would I work?</p> <p>Would he work?</p> <p>Would I work?</p> <p>Would he work?</p>

<p>Conditional Progressive</p>		<p>sth. that might happen</p> <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	<p>would + be + Infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I would be working. He would be working. I would be going. He would be going.</p>	<p>I wouldn't be working. He wouldn't be working. I wouldn't be going. He wouldn't be going.</p>	<p>Would I be working? Would he be working? Would I be going? Would he be going?</p>
<p>Conditional Perfect</p>		<p>sth. that might have happened in the past</p> <p>(It's too late now.)</p> <p>main clause in type III of the if clauses</p>	<p>would + have + past participle*</p> <p>*(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</p>	<p>I would have worked. He would have worked. I would have gone. He would have gone.</p>	<p>I wouldn't have worked. He wouldn't have worked. I wouldn't have gone. He wouldn't have gone.</p>	<p>Would I have worked? Would he have worked? Would I have gone? Would he have gone?</p>
<p>Conditional Perfect Progressive</p>		<p>sth. that might have happened in the past</p> <p>(It's too late now.)</p> <p>emphasis: length of time of an action</p>	<p>would + have + been + Infinitive + ing</p>	<p>I would have been working. He would have been going. I would have been going. He would have been going.</p>	<p>I wouldn't have been working. He wouldn't have been going. I wouldn't have been going. He wouldn't have been going.</p>	<p>Would I have been working? Would he have been working? Would I have been going? Would he have been going?</p>

We sometimes use Continuous instead of Progressive. Some signal words can be found in more tenses. We did not list signal words in the future . Always remember what action is described.