

Starter A Present & past tenses

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**PRESENT SIMPLE & CONTINUOUS,
PAST SIMPLE & CONTINUOUS**

We use the **present simple** to talk about habits, facts and permanent states.

I often watch films on Netflix.

The sun rises in the east.

We use the **present continuous** to talk about activities in progress at or around the moment of speaking:

We're at home now and we're watching TV.

(= now)

I'm reading two books at the moment.

(= around now)

We use the **past simple** to talk about finished events in a completed period of time.

He travelled around South America in 2015.

(= 2015 has finished)

We use the **past continuous** to talk about activities in progress at or around a time or event in the past:

I was going to the park when I saw my friend.

We also use it to set the scene for narrative:

It was 2016 and we were living in France.

Action and state verbs

Most verbs are action verbs (e.g. *go, buy, travel, swim*). State verbs (see the box) describe thoughts, feelings and opinions that don't change, so we don't usually use them in continuous forms.

agree appear believe belong
doubt hate know love own
prefer seem understand want

I believe everything he's saying.

~~*I'm believing everything he's saying.*~~

They seemed to be singing.

~~*They were seeming to be singing.*~~

PAST SIMPLE & PAST PERFECT

When we mention the second of two past events first, we use the past perfect to show which event happened first.

When we arrived, the match had already started.

(= The match started, and then we arrived.)

We can use the past perfect to talk about the first event to add emphasis to the sequence of events.

The rain had stopped before we left the house.

PRESENT PERFECT & PAST SIMPLE

We use the **present perfect** when we talk about a finished event or experience in an uncompleted period of time that started sometime in the past:

Your parcel has arrived.

(= It's here, but I don't know exactly when it came – the important thing is that it's here.)

Language note

We use *ever, never, just, already* and *yet* with this 'experience' use of present perfect.

Have you ever done yoga? She's never asked me.

We also use the **present perfect** to talk about unfinished states and events in uncompleted time periods. This use of the present perfect answers the question *How long ... ?*

We've lived in Valencia for five years.

(= We still live in Valencia.)



When we ask for or give more detailed information about an event, we use the **past simple**.

A: Your parcel has arrived.

B: Really?

A: Yes, the delivery person left it by the front door.

B: Oh. When did it arrive?

**PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE &
CONTINUOUS**

We use the **present perfect simple** to focus on the result of a past event or action.

We've recorded a short film. (= The film is ready.)

We use the **present perfect continuous** to focus on the process of a past activity. The use of the present perfect continuous suggests the activity will continue.

We've been recording a short film.

(= The film may or may not be ready, but the focus is on the activity.)

Starter B Future forms & question forms

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FUTURE FORMS

We use different forms to talk about the future.

Present tenses

We use the **present continuous** to talk about arrangements with a fixed time or date.

We're meeting on the 12 September.

Andres is moving house next Thursday.

We use the **present simple** to talk about an event on a timetable.

The bus leaves at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

What time does the museum close this evening?

be going to

We use *be going to* to talk about personal plans or intentions which might not have a fixed time or date.

I'm going to tidy my room.

Are you going to eat that biscuit?

We use *be going to* when we make a prediction based on present evidence, e.g. something we can see, smell or hear.

It looks as if they're going to leave soon.



will

We use *will* to make a prediction or give an opinion about the future.

Robots will become an important part of life.

We often use introductory phrases like *I think, I imagine, I reckon* and *I'm sure*.

I'm sure they'll find a solution soon.

We also use *will* when we make a spontaneous decision or offer.

I'll pay for this. ~ Really? Thank you. That's very kind.

Future continuous and future perfect

We use the **future continuous** to talk about an action which will be in progress in the future.

I'll be studying nearly all night.



We use the **future perfect** to say whether an action will or will not be complete at a specific time in the future.

Don't come back before seven. I won't have finished my homework.

TENSES: QUESTION FORMS

Object questions

Most questions with *who* and *what* are object questions, and *who* and *what* refer to the object of the verb.

object

I lost **something**.

object

What did you lose?

object

I lost **my pen**.

Subject questions

In subject questions, *who* and *what* refer to the subject of the verb.

subject

Someone loves me.

subject

Who loves you?

subject

Lee loves me.

Infinitives in questions

We use infinitives without *to* in object present and past simple questions, and in all questions with modal verbs.

What did you do last night? Where should we go?

Negative questions

We use negative statements to respond to what someone else has said or done, and to confirm what we think we know.

A: Can you tell me what happens at school tomorrow?

B: Aren't you going tomorrow? (= I'm just checking that you aren't going to school tomorrow.)

When + past simple or How long + past simple

We use *when* + past simple question to ask about a point in time.

When did you last see Harry?

What did you lose at the park?



My glove.