

| Tense | Signal words | Use | Form | Examples affirmative |
|---------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 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 that happens repeatedly how often</p> <p>something happens one action follows another</p> <p>things in general with the following verbs (to love, to hate, to think, etc.)</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> |
| 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> |
| Simple Past | <p>last ...</p> <p>... ago in</p> <p>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> |

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| Past Progressive | while | <p>an action happened in the middle of another action.</p> <p>Someone was doing something 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 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>*(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs)</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> |

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| Simple Past Perfect | already just never | 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 the past of the Present Perfect | had + past participle* *(infinitive + -ed) or (3rd column of table of irregular verbs) | I had worked. He had worked. I had gone. He had gone. | I hadn't worked. He hadn't worked. I hadn't gone. He hadn't gone. | Had I worked? Had he worked? Had I gone? Had he gone? |
| Past Perfect Progressive | how long since for | how long something had been happening before something else happened | had + been + Infinitive + ing | I had been working. He had been working. I had been going. He had been going. | I hadn't been working. He hadn't been working. I hadn't been going. He hadn't been going. | Had I been working? Had he been working? Had I been going? Had he been going? |
| will - future | | predictions about the future (you think that sth will happen) 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 | will + Infinitive | I'll work. He'll work. I'll go. He'll go. | I won't work. He won't work. I won't go. He won't go. | Will I work? Will he work? Will I go? Will he go? |
| going to - future | | when you have already decided to do sth. in the future what you think what will happen | be (am/are/is) + going to + Infinitive | I'm going to work. He's going to work. I'm going to go. He's going to go. | I'm not going to work. He's not going to work. I'm not going to go. He's not going to go. | Am I going to work? Is he going to work? Am I going to go? Is he going to go? |

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

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

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.

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