

Basic English Grammar



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Present Tenses

Week 2 – Lecture 2

Jake bake the cakes every day.



Jake bakes the cakes every day.



What is Tense?

- The word **TENSE** is derived from the Latin word "tempus" which means **time**.
- Tense (noun): a verb-based method used to indicate the time, and sometimes the continuation or completeness, of an action or state in relation to the time of speaking.



FORM			

FORM	PRESENT		

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE			
CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE			
CONTINUOUS			
PERFECT			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE			
CONTINUOUS			
PERFECT			
PERFECT CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0		
CONTINUOUS			
PERFECT			
PERFECT CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0		
CONTINUOUS	S + to be + V-ing + 0		
PERFECT			
PERFECT CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0		
CONTINUOUS	S + to be + V-ing + 0		
PERFECT	S + have/has + Verb 3 + 0		
PERFECT CONTINUOUS			

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0		
CONTINUOUS	S + to be + V-ing + 0		
PERFECT	S + have/has + Verb 3 + 0		
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	S + have/has + been + V-ing + 0		

FORM	PRESENT	PAST	FUTURE
SIMPLE	S + Verb 1 + 0		
CONTINUOUS	S + to be + V-ing + 0		
PERFECT	S + have/has + Verb 3 + 0		
PERFECT CONTINUOUS	S + have/has + been + V-ing + 0		

SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

Formulation:

S + Verb 1 (-s/-es) + O

S + Do/Does + Not + Verb 1 + O

Do/Does + S + Verb 1 + O?

Usage

✓ **General things that happens repeatedly, or general truths:**

- Nurses take care of patients in hospitals.
- The earth goes around the sun.
- The coffee shop opens at 7:30 in the morning.

✓ **We use do/does to make questions and negative sentences:**

do	I/we/you/they/	work?	I/we/you/they/	don't	work
does	he/she/it	drive?	he/she/it	doesn't	drive

- I come from Indonesia. Where do you come from?
- Rice doesn't grow in cold climates.
- I don't read book very often.

Usage

✓ **We use the simple present to say how often we do things:**

- I get up at 6:00 every morning.
- Julie doesn't drink coffee very often.
- Robert usually plays tennis twice a week.
- How often do you go to the dentist?

✓ **I promise/I apologize, etc.**

- **I promise** I won't be late.
- "What do you suggest I do?" "**I suggest** that you spend less money."

In the same way, we say: **I advise.../ I insist.../ I refuse.../ I suppose...** etc.

“Be” in the present simple

SUBJECT	“BE”	REST OF SENTENCE
I	am	25 years old.
You	are	a chef.
He / She / It	is	happy.
We / They	are	students.

Negatives with the verb “be”:

SUBJECT + “BE”	“NOT”	REST OF SENTENCE
I am	not	a doctor.
She is		In the office.
We are		Indonesian.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Formulation:

S + To Be (is, am, are) + V-ing + O

S + To Be + Not + V-ing + O

To Be + S + V-ing + O ?

How to form:

SUBJECT	"BE"	VERB + "-ING"	REST OF SENTENCE
I	am	cutting	some apples.
You	are	wearing	a dress.
He / She / It	is	washing	the dishes.
We / They	are	opening	a new store.



Usage

✓ **Action in the moment (on progress):**

- Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying to work.
- What's all that noise? What's going on?
- My friend is building her own house. She hopes to finish it next year.

✓ **Changes happening around now, especially with these verbs:**

get	change	become	increase	rise
fall	grow	improve	begin	start

- Is your English getting better?
- The population of the world is increasing very fast.

Notes!

A. The following verbs are not normally used in the present continuous tense:

like	love	hate	want	need	prefer
know	realize	suppose	mean	understand	believe
remember	belong	fit	contain	consist	seem

- I am hungry. I **want** something to eat.
- **Do** you **understand** what I mean?
- Ann **doesn't seem** very happy.

Notes!

B. Think

When **think** means “believe” or “have an opinion”, we do not use the continuous:

- I **think** Mary is Canadian, but I’m not sure.
- What **do** you **think** about my plan?

When **think** means “consider”, the continuous is possible:

- I’m **thinking** about what happened. I often think about it.
- Nicky **is thinking** of quitting her job.

Notes!

C. He is and He is being

Compare:

- He never thinks about other people. He **is** very selfish.
- I can't understand why he's **being** so selfish. He isn't usually like that.

We use **am/is/are + being** to say how somebody is behaving.

It is not usually possible in other sentences:

- It's hot today.
- Sarah is very tired.

Notes!

D. SEE HEAR SMELL TASTE

We normally use the simple present with these verbs:

- **Do you see** that man over there?
- This room **smells**. Let's open a window.

We often use can + see / hear / smell / taste:

- I **can hear** a strange noise. Can you hear it?

Notes!

E. LOOK FEEL

You can use the simple present or continuous to say how somebody looks or feels now:

You **look** good today

You **are looking** good today.

How **do** you **feel** now?

How **are** you **feeling** now?

But!

I usually **feel** tired in the morning. (*not* I'm usually feeling)

Comparison

Present Continuous

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not complete.



Present Simple

We use the simple present for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.



- The water **is boiling**. Can you turn it off?
- Listen to those people. What language **are** they **speaking**?
- Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- **I'm getting** hungry. Let's eat!

We use the present continuous for **temporary** situations:

- **I'm living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- A: **You're working** hard today.
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

- Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Excuse me, **do** you **speak** English?
- It **doesn't rain** very much in the summer.
- I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.

We use the simple present for **permanent** situations:

- My parents **live** in Canada. They have lived there all their lives.
- John isn't lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

Formulation:

S + Have/Has + Verb 3 + O

S + Have/Has + Not + Verb 3 + O

Have/Has + S + Verb 3 + O?

Dave : Have you traveled a lot, Jane?

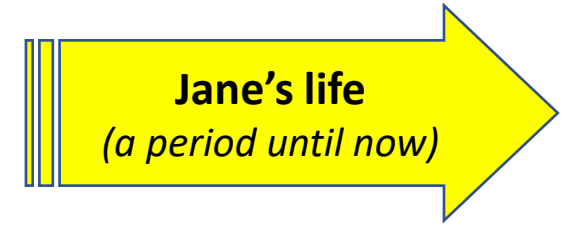
Jane : Yes, I've been to lots of places.

Dave : Really? Have you ever been to Korea?

Jane : Yes, I've been to Korea twice.

Dave : What about Japan?

Jane : No, I haven't been to Japan



have/has + traveled/been/done, etc., (past participle) is the present perfect.

I/we/they/you **have** (= I've, etc.)

he/she/it **has** (= he's, etc.)

traveled
been

done, etc.

We use the *present perfect* when we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now.

Have you read Hamlet?
No, I haven't read any of Shakespeare's plays.

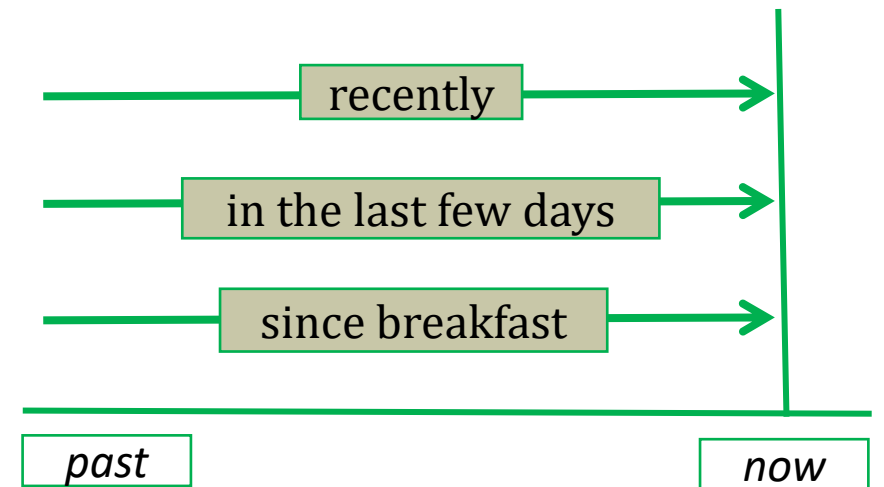
Susan really loves that movie. She has seen it eight times.

I've met a lot of people in the last few days.

Everything is going well. We haven't had any problems so far.

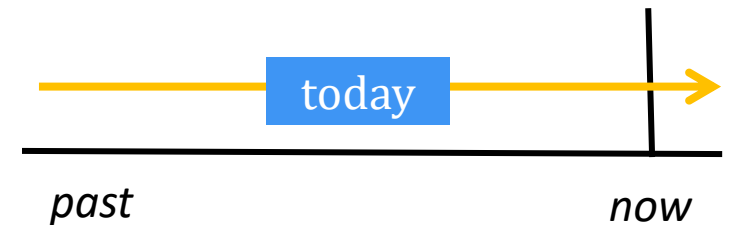
I'm hungry. I haven't eaten anything since breakfast.

It's nice to see you again. We haven't seen each other for a long time.



We use the present perfect with **today** / **this morning** / **this year**, etc., when this periods are not finished at the time of speaking.

- ✓ I've drunk four cups of coffee **today**.
- ✓ Have you had a vacation **this year** (yet)?
- ✓ I haven't seen Tom **this morning**. Have you?
- ✓ Rob hasn't studied very hard **this semester**.



It's the first time something **has happened**.

John is taking a driving lesson. It's his first one. It's the first time **he has driven** a car.

or

He has never driven a car before.

Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**.

Abraham is calling his girlfriend again. That's the third time **he's called** her tonight.

Use the present perfect for new or recent events:

- I've lost my keys. Have you seen them?
- The police have arrested 2 people in connection with robbery.
- "Is Sally her?"
"No, she's gone out."

The present perfect always tells us something about now.

- I'm sorry, but I've forgotten your name.
- I can't find my bag. Have you seen it?
- It has stopped raining, so you don't need the umbrella.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Formulation:

S + have/has + been + V-ing + O

S + have/has + not + been + V-ing + O

Have/Has + S + been + V-ing + O?

It has been raining

A: Is it raining?

B: No, but the ground is wet.

It has been raining.

Have/has been -ing is the *present perfect continuous*:

I/we/they/you	have	been	doing
he/she/it	has		waiting playing, etc.

We use present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped. There is a connection with now:

- You're out of breath. **Have you been running?**
- Jason is very tired. He's **been working** very hard.
- Why are your clothes so dirty? What **have you been doing?**
- I'm glad you called. I've **been thinking** about calling you.
- Where have you been? I've **been looking** for you everywhere.

It has been raining for two hours



A: How long **has it been raining**?

B: It **has been raining** for two hours.

We use the present perfect continuous in this way with **how long, for, and since**.

The activity is still happening or has just stopped.

Examples:

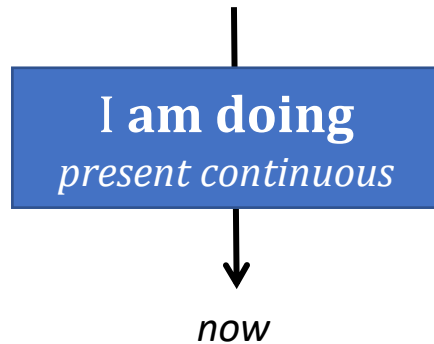
- **How long have you been studying** English?
- Tim is still watching television. He's **been watching TV all day.**
- Where have you been? I've **been looking** for you **for the last half hour.**
- Dono **hasn't been feeling** well **recently.**

You can use the present perfect continuous for actions repeated over a period of time:

Stefan is a very good tennis player. He's **been playing tennis since he was ten.**

Every morning they meet in the same café. They've **been going there for years.**

Compare I am doing and I have been doing:



- Don't bother me now. I am working.
- We need an umbrella. It's raining.
- Hurry up! We're waiting.



- I've been working hard. Now I'm going to take a break.
- The ground is wet. It's been raining.
- We've been waiting for an hour.

Present Perfect Continuous vs Present Perfect



- Ling's clothes are covered with paint. She **has been painting** the ceiling.



- The ceiling was white and now it is red. She **has painted** the ceiling.

- My hands are very dirty. **I've been fixing** the car.
- Joe **has been eating** too much recently. He should eat less.
- It's nice to see you again. What **have you been doing** since the last time we saw you?
- Where have you been? **Have you been playing** tennis?

- The car is OK again now. **I've fixed** it.
- Somebody **has eaten** all my candy. The box is empty.
- Where's the book I gave you? What **have you done** with it?
- **Have you ever played** tennis?

Thank you!

REFERENCES

Murphy, Raymond & Smalzer, William. *Grammar in use, Intermediate*. Cambridge U. Press, 2019.

Leu, Zenda. *My Grammar Guide*. Raffles Consultancy.

PICTURE SOURCES ON EACH SLIDE

- Slide 3, 4, 5: <https://vocabularytoday.com/2020/08/12/tenses-definition-types-examples/>
- Slide 42: <https://www.academy.englishdom.com/single-post/present-perfect-or-present-perfect-continuous>
- Slide 46: Grammar in use - Intermediate Book, page 22.