

# Intermediate English Grammar

## Chapter 1

### **Review of verb tenses & Subject-verb agreement**

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**SIMPLE  
PRESENT  
TENSE**

# Usage

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

- Ella stays with us quite often. The children love having her here.
- We request that you read the terms and conditions carefully before signing.

✓ **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 buy a new dress. How does it look?
- My sister doesn't have a long hair.
- 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?

# “Be” in the present simple

SUBJECT	“BE”	REST OF SENTENCE
I	am	32 years old.
You	are	a good leader.
He / She / It	is	very happy.
We / They	are	international students.

## Negatives with the verb “be”:

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

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**PRESENT  
CONTINUOUS  
TENSE**

# 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.



**PRESENT  
PERFECT  
TENSE**

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.

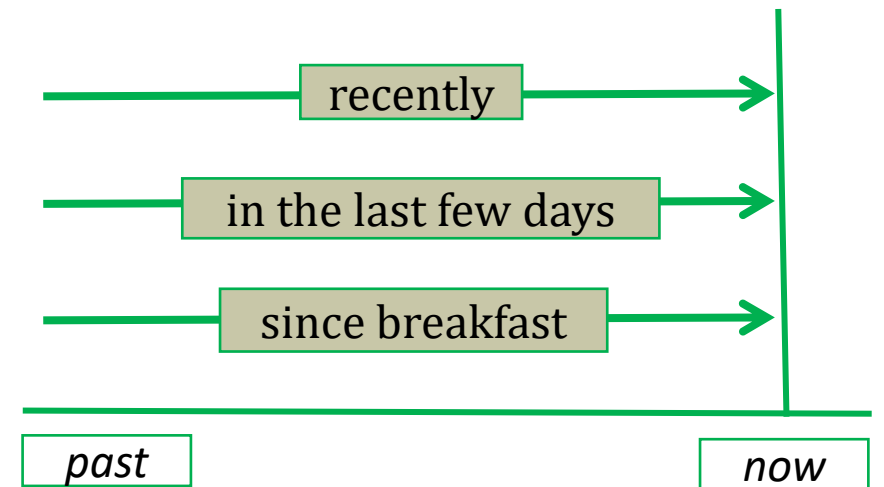
Susan really loves that movie. She has seen it eight times.

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

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

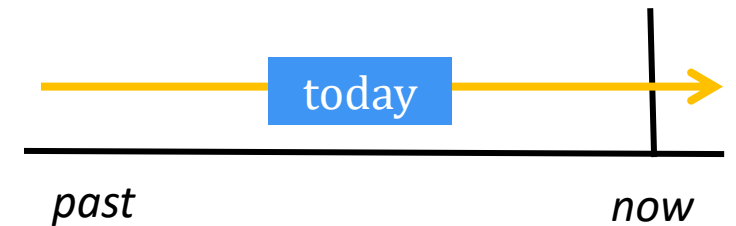
I'm hungry. I haven't eaten anything since breakfast.

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**.





**PRESENT**  
**PERFECT**  
**CONTINUOUS**

# 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.



**SIMPLE  
PAST  
TENSE**

# Simple Past

Very often the simple past ends in -ed (*regular* verbs):

- ❖ I work in a travel agency now. I **worked** in a department store before.
- ❖ We **invited** them to our party, but they decided not to come.
- ❖ Laura **passed** her exam because she studied very hard.

But many verbs are *irregular*. This means the simple past does not end in -ed.

- ❖ Mozart **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
- ❖ We **saw** Rose at the mall a few days ago.
- ❖ I **went** to the movies three times last week.

In questions and negatives we use  
did/didn't + base form (enjoy/see/go, etc.)

I	enjoyed
she	saw
they	went

I	<b>didn't</b>	enjoy
she		see
they		go

<b>did</b>	you	enjoy?
	she	see?
	they	go?

- ❖ A : **Did** you **go** out last night?  
B : Yes, I **went** to the movies, but I **didn't enjoy** the film much.
- ❖ They **didn't invite** her to the party, so she **didn't go**.
- ❖ “What **did** you **do** on the weekend?”  
“I **didn't do** anything.”



**PAST  
CONTINUOUS  
TENSE**

# Past Continuous Tense

Yesterday Karen and Jim played tennis.  
They began at 10:00 and finished at 11:30.  
So, at 10:30 they **were playing** tennis.

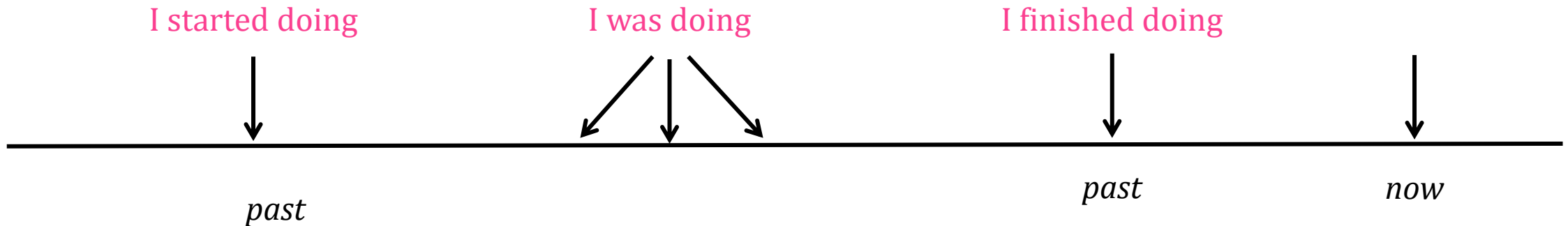
They **were playing** = they were in the middle of playing.  
They had not finished playing.

Was/were + verb -ing is the past continuous:

<b>I/he/she/it</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>playing</b>
<b>we/you/they</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>doing, etc.</b>

# Past Continuous Tense

I was doing something = I was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time, but had not finished.



- This time last year, I **was living** in Brazil.
- What **were** you **doing** at 10:00 last night?
- I waved to Helen, but she **wasn't looking**.



**PAST  
PERFECT  
TENSE**

# Past Perfect Tense

<b>I/he/she/it</b>	<b>had</b>	<b>gone</b>
<b>we/you/they</b>		<b>arrived</b>

## Note:

The second (later) action is always in the Past Simple.

She arrived after **we had played cards**.

**He had slept a little** before the phone rang.

**They had left for Tokyo** by this time yesterday.

I was sure that **I had seen him before**.

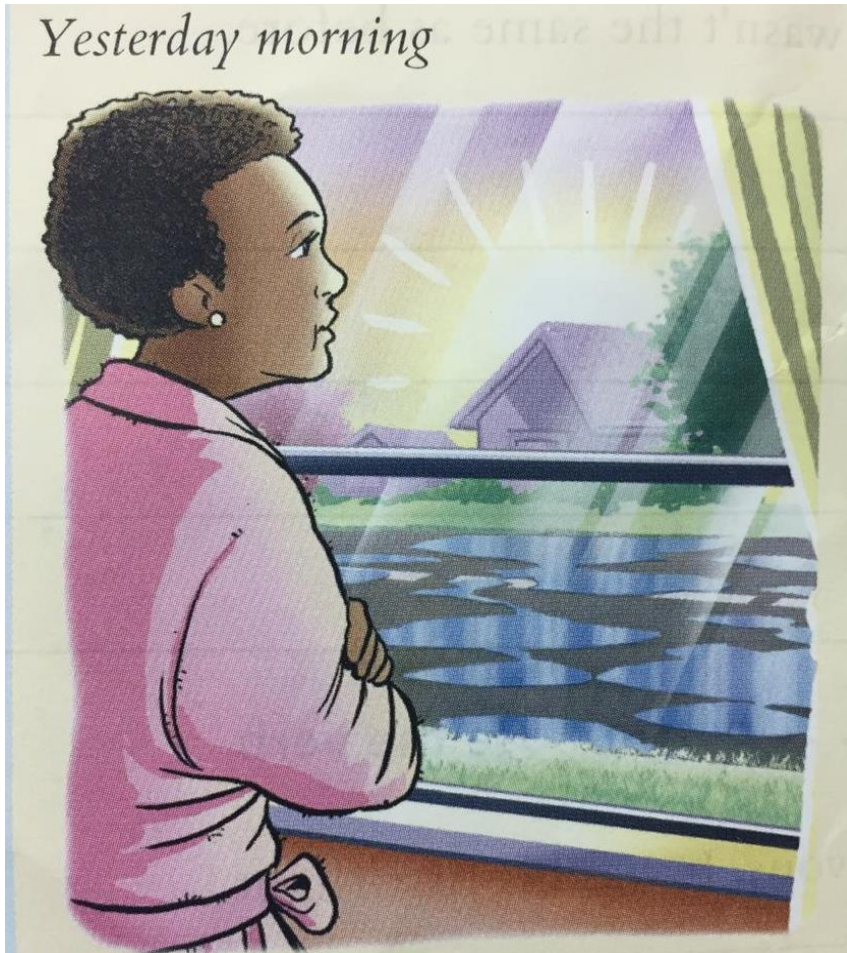
# Past Perfect Tense

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** our house.
- Karen didn't want to go to the movies with us because she **had already seen** the film.
- At first I thought **I had done** the right thing, but I soon realized that **I had made** a big mistake.
- The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **had never flown** before.



**PAST  
PERFECT  
CONTINUOUS**

# Past Perfect Continuous



Yesterday morning, I got up and looked out of the window. The ground was wet.

**It had been raining.**

You can say that something had been happening for a period of time before something else happened.

# Past Perfect Continuous

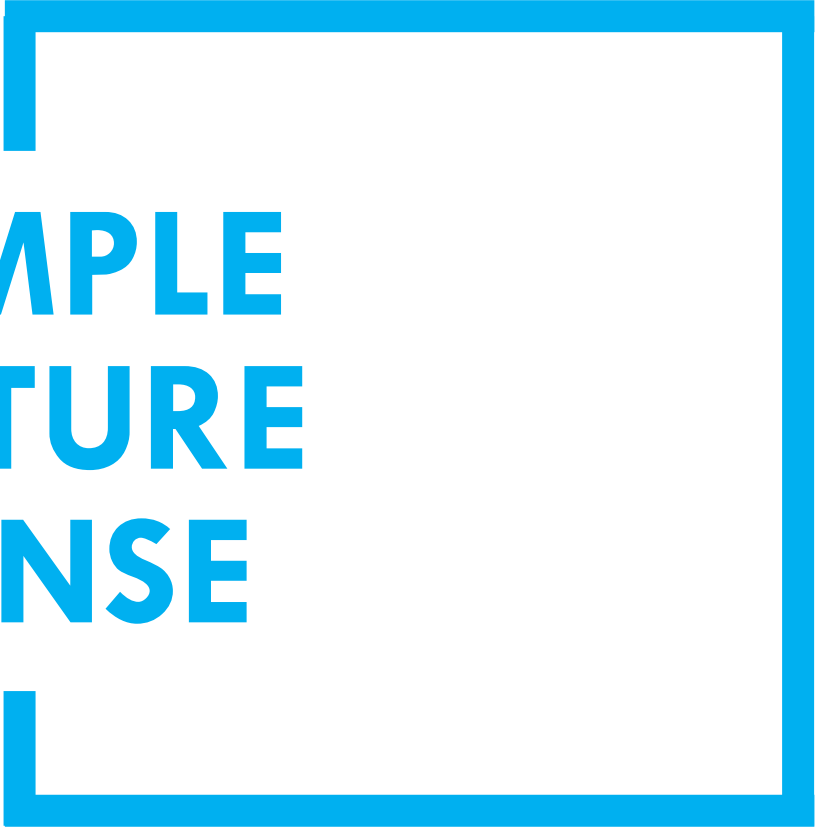
We had been playing cards **for two hours** when she arrived.

He had been sleeping **for a long time** when the phone rang.

They had been flying to Tokyo **for a few hours** by this time  
yesterday.

# Past Perfect Continuous

- When the boys came into the house, their clothes were dirty, their hair was messy, and one of them had a black eye. They **had been fighting**.
- I was very tired when I got home. I **had been working** hard all day.
- When I went to Tokyo a few years ago, I stayed with a friend of mine. She **had been living** there only a short time but knew the city very well.



**SIMPLE  
FUTURE  
TENSE**

# SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE

We use **I will (I'll)** when we decide to do something at the time of speaking (quick decision):

- Oh, I left the door open. **I will go** and shut it.
- “What would you like to drink?”  
“**I will have** an orange juice, please.”
- “Did you call Julie?”  
“Oh no, I forgot. **I'll call** her now.”
- **I will meet** you at the lobby tomorrow.

# SIMPLE FUTURE TENSE

- **We often use I think I'll ..... and I don't think I'll :**
  - ✓ I am a little hungry. I think **I'll have** something to eat.
  - ✓ I don't think **I'll go** out tonight. I'm too tired.
- **In spoken English, the negative of will is usually won't (will + not) :**
  - ✓ I can see you're busy, so I **won't stay** long.
  - ✓ Well, I **won't give up** on us even if the skies get rough.

# THE FUTURE WITH "BE GOING TO"

Future forms in English are also formed using auxiliary verbs. One of the most commonly used constructions is "**be + going to**" plus the base form of the main verb.

"**Going to**" is used to talk about future events that have been planned in advance, rather than decided upon at the time of speaking.

- ✓ I am **going to** buy a new car.
- ✓ We are **going to** cook dinner tonight.



**FUTURE  
CONTINUOUS  
TENSE**

# FUTURE CONTINUOUS TENSE

**I will be doing something = I will be in the middle of doing something.**  
**It describes an event or situation that will be in progress at some point in the future.**

- ❑ I will go to Bali this Saturday for a week. This time next week, I **will be lying** on the beach or swimming in the ocean.
- ❑ You have no chance of getting the job. You **will be wasting** your time if you apply for it.

**Compare will be doing and will do:**

- ❑ Don't call me between 7 or 8. I **will be having** dinner.
- ❑ Tomorrow afternoon we're going to play tennis from 3:00 until 5:00. So at 4:00, we **will be playing** tennis.



**FUTURE  
PERFECT  
TENSE**

# FUTURE PERFECT TENSE

**We use future perfect tense to say that something will already be completed before a certain time in the future:**

- We're late. The film **will** already **have started** by the time we get to the cinema.
- They **will have left** for Tokyo by this time tomorrow.
- She **will have done** her homework by the time we arrive.
- We **will have painted** the house next week.




**FUTURE  
PERFECT  
CONTINUOUS**

# Future Perfect Continuous

**Action that will have started, will have continued for some time and will still be in progress in the future. The future perfect continuous can be used to predict the length of an activity.**

- ✓ They will have been flying to Tokyo **for a few hours** by this time tomorrow.
- ✓ The film will have been running **for two hours** by midnight.
- ✓ She will have been doing her homework **for several hours** by the time we arrive.



**SUBJECT  
VERB  
AGREEMENT**

# **Subject-verb agreement**

One of the basic principles of English is that subject and verbs must agree in number. Some subjects, however, can act like singular or plural nouns depending on the context.

# Plural nouns with singular agreement

Even though “tales” is plural, The Canterbury Tales is a single work of literature.

- ***The Canterbury Tales* was** first published in the 1400s.
- ***Mathematics* is** becoming a more popular subject.

# Further examples

- ***Little Women is*** a novel by Louisa May Alcott.
- ***The Netherlands is*** famous for its tulip industry.
- ***Gymnastics was*** the most enjoyable sport at school.
- ***Politics is*** often a topic for academic debate.
- ***Athletics was*** an important part of the ancient Olympics Games.

# COLLECTIVE NOUNS

Collective nouns have a singular form, but refer to a number of people or objects as a group. In US English they generally take a singular verb. In UK English they can often be used with either singular or plural verbs.

If the subject describes a singular body, then the verb form must be singular.

The **team is** getting a new manager next year.

Subject describes a collection of individuals.

UK only.

The **team are** feeling excited about the news.

# Further examples

- The **society is** going to have a meeting next week.
- The **society are** discussing how often they should meet.
- The **band has** just released its new album.
- The **band have** been on tour to promote their new album.
- The **government is** located in the capital city.
- The **government are** in talks with the US.
- My **family is** bigger than most other families I know.
- My **family are** going away together for the first time in years.
- The **company has** hired some new staff.
- The **company have** been busy baking for a charity cake sale.

Thank you!

## REFERENCES

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

DK. *English for Everyone – English Grammar Guide*. Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2016.

# PICTURE SOURCES ON EACH SLIDE

- Slide 40: [Grammar in use - Intermediate Book, page 30.](#)