

The Tenses

The tense of the verb shows if something is happening in the present, past or future. The diagram shown below will be used in the tense descriptions:



Tense	diagram	Examples
1. Simple present	←xxxxx↑xxxxx→	Mahmoud studies every day.
2. Simple past	←x↑→	Mahmoud studied last night.
3. Simple future	←↑x→	Mahmoud will study tomorrow.
4. Present progressive	←x↑x→	Mahmoud is studying right now.
5. Past progressive	←x↑x→	Mahmoud was studying when they came.
6. Future progressive	←↑x→	Mahmoud will be studying when you come.
7. Present perfect	←(x)↑→	Mahmoud has already studied Chapter 1.
8. Past perfect	←(x)↑x→	Mahmoud had already studied Chapter 1 before he began studying Chapter 2.
9. Future perfect	←↑(x)→	Mahmoud will already have studied Chapter 4 before he studies Chapter 5.
10. Present perfect progressive	←x↑x→	Mahmoud has been studying for two hours.
11. Past perfect progressive	←x↑x→	Mahmoud had been studying for two hours before his friend came.
12. Future perfect progressive	←↑x↑x→	Mahmoud will have been studying for two hours by the time his roommate gets home.

Simple Future

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Form: 1. will + the bare infinitive (without to): "I will walk to work."
2. be going to + the bare infinitive (without to): "I am going to walk to work."

Negation: 1. will + not + the bare infinitive: "I will not walk to work."
2. be + not + going to + the bare infinitive: "I am not going to walk to work."

Question: Will + subject + the bare infinitive? : "Will he walk to work?"
Be + subject + going to + the bare infinitive? : "Are you going to walk to work?"

Time Adverbials: 1. tomorrow 2. today 3. next 4. in the future 5. next week/month/year - etc
6. tonight 7. this day 8. this month 9. on Monday - etc 10. soon

Timeline: ← Past ↑ now → Future : Mahmoud will study tomorrow.
I am going to come to the party tonight.

Uses:

Will

Be going to

* No evidence

* Spontaneous Actions

* Offers, Promises, Request, Invitation

* Rapid Decisions

* Refusal, Threat

← Predictions →

* Evidence / signs

* Actions with a plan / thought

* Intentions

Examples: 1. I think it will rain tomorrow.

2. I think it is going to rain tomorrow.

3. She is pregnant. She is going to have a baby.

4. I will definitely come to the party. You have my word.

5. We are going to visit our grandma next week.

6. Don't worry, I will pay for the coffee.

7. That looks heavy. I will help you with it.

⊕ you can use both Will and Going to for making predictions. (see 1+2)

Present Perfect

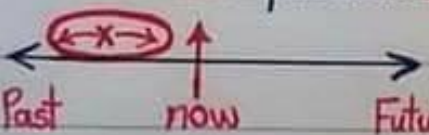
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Form: (I + plural) + have + pp : I have broken two cups since the morning.
(Singular) + has + pp : She has broken two cups since the morning.

Negation: (I + plural) + haven't + pp : I haven't eaten yet.
(Singular) + hasn't + pp : It hasn't rained lately.

Questions: Have + (I/plural) + pp? Have you ever seen a ghost?
Has + (Singular) + pp? Has he found a new job yet?

Time Adverbials: 1. already 2. yet 3. ever 4. never 5. How long?
6. so far 7. just 8. since 9. for 10. at last
11. recently 12. lately 13. still 14. once 15. over the last
16. for a long time 17. this morning 18. this week 19. this month
20. up to now 21. times 22. twice 23. three, six, ... times

Timeline:  * Mahmoud has already studied Chapter 1.
* I have just met Ahmed.

Uses: 1. With finished or achieved activities: (an action happened at unspecified time before now. The exact time isn't important)
a. I have read Hamlet.
b. She has gone.
c. I have lost my keys.
d. I have just met Ahmed.
e. Leila has already made the tea.
2. For achievements:
a. Ahmed has won three medals so far.
b. How many races have you taken part in yet?

Present Perfect Progressive

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Form: (I + plural) + have + been + infinitive-ing .

* I have been studying for two hours .

(Singular) + has + been + infinitive-ing .

* Mahmoud has been studying for two hours .

Negation: (I + plural) + haven't + been + infinitive-ing .

* I haven't been studying for two hours .

(Singular) + hasn't + been + infinitive-ing .

* Mahmoud hasn't been studying for two hours .

Questions: Have + (I/plural) + been + infinitive-ing ?

* Have you been studying for two hours ?

Has + (Singular) + been + infinitive-ing ?

* Has Mahmoud been studying for two hours ?

Time Adverbials: 1. for + time 2. since + time 3. for + time + now

4. this + time 5. all + time 6. in the last few + time

7. every + time 8. because 9. over the last + time

10. lately 11. recently 12. today, again 13. How long ?



Future : Mahmoud has been studying for two hours .

Uses: 1. To talk about *unfinished* actions

2. The focus on the *consequences*

Examples: 1. He has been studying for over eight hours now .

2. He's tired . He has been studying for over eight hours now .

Future Perfect Progressive

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Form: will + have + been + infinitive-ing

* Mahmoud will have been studying for two hours by the time his roommate gets home.


Negation: won't + have + been + infinitive-ing

* Mahmoud won't have been studying for two hours by the time his roommate gets home.

Questions: Will + subject + have + been + infinitive-ing _____ ?

* Will Mahmoud have been studying for two hours by the time his roommate gets home?

Time Adverbials: By + time in the future

Timeline:  : By the next month, I will have been learning English for 13 years.

Uses: To talk about a long action before some point in the future.

- Examples:
1. I will have been working here for 10 years next week.
 2. You will have been waiting for more than two hours when her plane finally arrives.
 3. He will be tired when he arrives. He will have been travelling for 24 hours.
 4. In November, I will have been working at my school for 10 years.
 5. When I turn thirty, I will have been playing piano for 22 years.

Note: won't = will not

Future Perfect

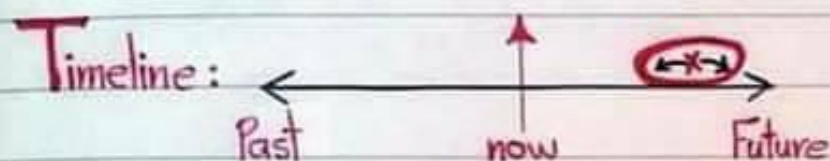
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Form: will + have + pp: Mahmoud will have studied Chapter 4 before he studies Chap 5

Negation: won't + have + pp: Mahmoud won't have studied Chapter 5 before he studies Chap 4

Questions: Will + subject + have + pp-? Will Mahmoud have studied.....?

Time Adverbial: By + time in the future.



Uses: To talk about an action in the future before another action in the future.

To express an act that is predicated to be finished within a certain span of time in the future.

- Examples:
1. Mahmoud will have studied Chapter 4 before he studies chapter 5.
 2. By the year 2020, the government will have built five more hospitals.
 3. By the next month, I will have graduated from university.
 4. We will have finished the match by 6 o'clock.
 5. You will have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S
 6. You won't have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S
 7. Will you have perfected your English by the time you come back from the U.S?
 8. You can call me at work at 8am. I will have arrived at the office by 8.
 9. I will have finished by 10 am.
 10. I will have established my academy by the year 2020.

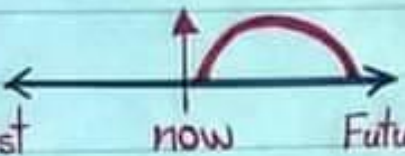
Note: We sometimes use shall instead of will, especially for I and we.

Future Progressive

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Form: will + be + infinitive-ing : Mahmoud will be studying when you come.
Negation: will + not + be + infinitive-ing: Mahmoud will not be studying when you come.
Questions: Will + Subject + be + infinitive-ing? Will Mahmoud be studying?

Time Adverbials: 1. tomorrow 2. today 3. next 4. in the future 5. tonight 6. soon
7. this day 8. this month 9. next week/month/year... etc
10. on Monday... etc 11. at... o'clock 12. at this time tomorrow

Timeline:  Mahmoud will be studying when you come.
* I will be waiting there at five o'clock.

Uses: To show that an action will begin and continue in the future.

Examples:

1. I will be playing football at 10am tomorrow.
2. At this time tomorrow, I will be sitting in class.
3. When I arrive at the airport tomorrow, my family will be waiting for me.
4. They won't be watching TV at 8pm tonight.
5. What will you be doing at 11pm tonight?
6. She won't be sleeping when you telephone her.
7. We will be having dinner when the film starts.
8. Take your umbrella. It will be raining when you return.
9. Will you be waiting for her when her plane arrives tonight?
10. I will be waiting for her when her plane arrives tonight.

Note: won't = will not

Past Perfect Progressive

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Form: had + been + infinitive - ing

* Mahmoud had been studying for two hours before his friend came.

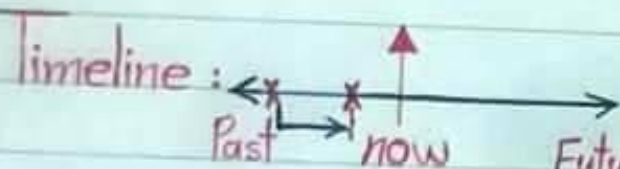
Negation: hadn't + been + infinitive - ing

* Mahmoud hadn't been studying for two hours before his friend came.

Questions: Had + (Subject) + been + infinitive - ing ... ?

* Had Mahmoud been studying for two hours before his friend came?

Time Adverbials: 1. for + time 2. before 3. when 4. after 5. since



Future: Mahmoud had been studying for two hours before his friend came.

Uses: It expresses longer actions in the past before another action in the past:

- Examples:
1. I had been waiting there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.
 2. They had been playing for two hours before their guest came.
 3. It had been raining hard for two hours before he came.
 4. Ahmed had been writing his homework before his friend came.
 5. My mother had been cleaning our rooms before we came.

Past Perfect

Form: had + pp : Mahmoud had already studied Chapter 1.

Negation: hadn't + pp : Mahmoud hadn't studied Chapter 1.


Questions: Had + Subject + pp ? Had Mahmoud studied Chapter 1?

Time Adverbials: 1. before 2. after 3. when 4. by the time 5. already

6. never 7. until 8. never/until 9. because 10. scarcely

10. as soon as 11. till 12. no sooner 13. Hardly 14. the moment that



Timeline:  * Mahmoud had already studied Chapter 1.
* You had studied English before you moved to NY.

Uses: To talk about an event happened earlier, before other past event:

1. The guests had left before I got home.
2. I travelled to America after I had got a visa
3. Mahmoud had studied Chapter 1 before he studied Chapter 2.
4. I felt a little better after I had taken the medicine.
5. You had studied English before you moved to NY.
6. When I got there he had left the house already.
7. I am didn't get well fast because he hadn't taken his medicine
8. By the time Leila got to the party, everyone had gone home.
9. They restarted the tennis match as soon as the rain had stopped.
10. Had she prepared lunch when her sister came in?

Note: * Past Perfect before Simple Past see 1, 3 and 5
* Past Perfect when Simple Past see 6
* Simple Past after Past Perfect see 2, 4
* Simple Past as soon as Past Perfect see 9
* Simple Past until Past Perfect

Past Progressive

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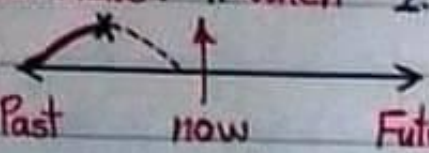
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Form: (Singular + I) + was + infinitive + ing : He/she/it/I was eating.
(Plural) + were + infinitive + ing : We/They/You were eating.

Negation: wasn't + infinitive + ing : He/She/It/I wasn't eating.
weren't + infinitive + ing : We/They/You weren't eating.

Questions: Was/Were + subject + infinitive + ing ... ?
* Was he waiting? * Were they waiting?

Time Adverbials: 1. when 2. while 3. as 4. just as

Timeline:  * Mahmoud was studying when they came.
* We were studying when they came.

Uses: 1. To talk about activities that continued in an a specific time in the past:

* What were you doing at 8:30 last night?

2. To talk about activities that from a background for some events:

* She was waiting for her friend when I met her.

* I met her while she was waiting for her friend.

* I met her as she was waiting for her friend.

Examples:

1. When Mahmoud drove his car, he began to think of his problems. ✓

2. When Mahmoud was driving his car, he began to think of his problems. ✓

3. While Mahmoud was driving his car, he began to think of his problems. ✓

4. While Mahmoud drove his car, he began to think of his problems. ✗

Note: We can usually use the simple past or the past progressive after "When" But the past progressive must be used only after "While". see no.4

Present Progressive

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Form: I + am + infinitive-ing : I am studying English now.

Singular + is + infinitive-ing : He is studying English now.

Plural + are + infinitive-ing : We are studying English now.

Negation: I am + not + infinitive-ing : I am not coming.

Singular + isn't + infinitive-ing : He isn't coming.

Plural + aren't + infinitive-ing : We aren't coming.

Questions: Am + I + infinitive-ing -- ? : Am I bothering you?

Is + singular + infinitive-ing -- ? : Is he coming?

Are + plural + infinitive-ing -- ? : Are they coming?

Time Adverbials: 1. now 2. at the moment 3. at present 4. tonight 5. today
6. just 7. this + time (this moment, this week) 8. at the time being
9. look! 10. listen! 11. watch out! 12. nowadays 13. currently
14. next week/month/year

Timeline: ← Past — now — Future → : Mahmoud is studying right now.

: We are studying English now.

Uses: 1. To talk about activities that are going on at the time of speaking.

Example: Mahmoud is standing beside a wood fire.

Dad can't answer the phone because he's having a shower.

2. To talk about activities that happen regularly but only for a short or limited period of time (temporary).

Example: They are showing some good films at the moment.

We are just preparing for the wedding.

3. To talk about the future if we add a future word (tomorrow, next year, etc.):

Example: We are going to visit our grandma next year.

Note: Progressive = Continuous

Present Progressive

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Form: I + am + infinitive-ing : I am studying English now.

Singular + is + infinitive-ing : He is studying English now.

Plural + are + infinitive-ing : We are studying English now.

Negation: I am + not + infinitive-ing : I am not coming.

Singular + isn't + infinitive-ing : He isn't coming.

Plural + aren't + infinitive-ing : We aren't coming.

Questions: Am + I + infinitive-ing -- ? : Am I bothering you?

Is + singular + infinitive-ing -- ? : Is he coming?

Are + plural + infinitive-ing -- ? : Are they coming?

Time Adverbials: 1. now 2. at the moment 3. at present 4. tonight 5. today
6. just 7. this + time (this moment, this week) 8. at the time being
9. look! 10. listen! 11. watch out! 12. nowadays 13. currently
14. next week/month/year

Timeline: ← Past — now —→ Future : Mahmoud is studying right now.

We are studying English now.

Uses: 1. To talk about activities that are going on at the time of speaking.

Example: Mahmoud is standing beside a wood fire.

Dad can't answer the phone because he's having a shower.

2. To talk about activities that happen regularly but only for a short or limited period of time (temporary).

Example: They are showing some good films at the moment.

We are just preparing for the wedding.

3. To talk about the future if we add a future word (tomorrow, next year, etc.):

Example: We are going to visit our grandma next year.

Note: Progressive = Continuous

Simple Past

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Form: Regular verbs: -ed : I played football yesterday.

Irregular verbs: 2nd form: I bought a T-shirt last night.

Negation: subject + didn't + infinitive + complement.

* I didn't play football yesterday.

* I didn't buy a T-shirt last night.

Question: Did + subject + infinitive + complement?

* Did you play football yesterday?

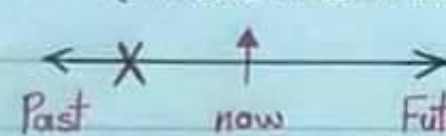
* Did you buy a T-shirt last night?

Note: When asking a question with the verb to be, you don't need the auxiliary did. The formula is: was/were + [subject]

* Was Wolfgang in a good mood after the contest?

* Were you born in Amman? Yes, I was.

Time Adverbials: 1. ago 2. in the past 3. yesterday 4. in + past time (in 1983/2000...
5. last + time (last year/month... etc 6. on + past time (on 25 January 2007)
7. by + past time (by 2004) 8. then 9. when 10. at the time 11. This morning
12. an hour ago 13. the day before yesterday 14. when + dependent past clause
(when I was a child, when I called her... etc 15. the other day

Timeline:  Past now Future : Mahmoud studied last night.

Uses: 1. Action in the past taking place once, never or several times:

Example: He visited his parents every weekend.

2. Action in the past taking place one after the other:

Example: He came in, took off his coat and sat down.

3. Action in the past taking place in the middle of another action:

Example: When I was having breakfast, the phone suddenly rang.

4. To talk about finished actions or past situation: It rained heavily last week.

Simple Present

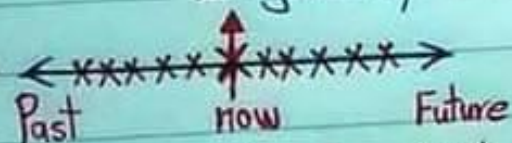
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* Form: singular + infinitive + (e)s : He/She/It loves Jordan.
(I + plural) + infinitive : I/We/They/You love Egypt.

* Negation = (not) : singular + doesn't + infinitive : She/He doesn't smoke.
(I + plural) + don't + infinitive : I/We/They/You don't smoke.

* Question = ? : Does + singular + infinitive : Does it rain?
Do + (I + plural) + infinitive : Do you smoke?

* Time Adverbials: 1. always 2. usually 3. regularly 4. every + time
5. often 6. sometimes 7. occasionally 8. from time to time
9. twice a 10. rarely 11. seldom 12. hardly ever
13. scarcely 14. once a 15. never 16. daily
17. weekly 18. monthly 19. yearly 20. frequently
21. generally 22. normally

* Timeline : 
Past now Future

* Uses: * To talk about : 1. activities that we repeat regularly (routine, habit):

* Examples : a. He watches TV.

b. She plays tennis.

c. We go to school every day

d. I study at a Teacher Training College.

2. states, feelings, opinions and truth :

* Examples : a. I live in Jordan. (state)

b. They are angry. (feeling)

c. English is easy. (opinion)

d. The sun sets in the west. (truth)