

Verb Tenses in English

	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
SIMPLE	An action that ended in the past	An action that is habitual or repeated	A plan for an action in the future
<i>Verb Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • painted • drove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paint/paints • drive/drives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will paint • will drive
<i>Sentence Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He painted yesterday. • I drove home yesterday. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She paints every weekend. • You drive to class on Tuesdays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will paint tomorrow. • We will drive to Utah this summer.
CONTINUOUS (be) + (verb) + ing	An action that was happening (past continuous) when another action finished (simple past)	An action that is in the process of happening now	An action that will happen in the future for a length of time
<i>Verb Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • was/were painting • was/were driving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • am/is/are painting • am/is/are driving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will be painting • will be driving
<i>Sentence Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was painting when she came home. • I was driving to the store when he called. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is painting. • You are driving to work right now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will be painting tomorrow. • We will be driving for eight hours.
PERFECT (have) + (verb)	An action that finished before another action or time in the past	An action that happened at an unsaid time in the past	An action that will finish before another action or time in the future
<i>Verb Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • had painted • had driven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have/has painted • have/has driven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will have painted • will have driven
<i>Sentence Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had painted the whole bathroom before I arrived. • I had driven an hour when I ran out of gas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has painted many portraits. • You have driven race cars before. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will have painted the chair by lunchtime. • We will have driven over 450 miles before we get to Santa Fe.
PERFECT CONTINUOUS (have) + been + (verb) + ing	An action that happened over time in the past before another action	An action that happens over time, starting in the past and continuing into the present	An action that happens over time in the future before another action
<i>Verb Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • had been painting • had been driving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have/has been painting • have/has been driving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will have been painting • will have been driving
<i>Sentence Examples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had been painting three hours when I got there. • I had been driving all night when I fell asleep at the wheel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has been painting every weekend. • You have been driving your mother crazy with that loud music. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will have been painting all morning before we get there. • We will have been driving three days when we get to Washington, D.C.